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THE ARMY

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By and for men in the service

The GI's War Against Japan

A PICTURE REVIEW, PAGES 2-11

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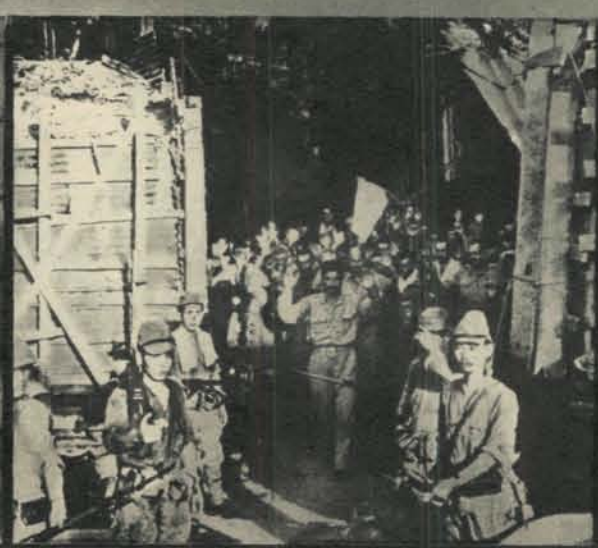
1 Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy." The Japs turned us into soldiers

The GI's War Against Japan

A Picture Story of the American Soldier's Fight in the Pacific from Pearl Harbor to Victory.

2 Jap Ambassador Nomura and Special Envoy Kurusu "negotiated" as their bombs fell.



3 The Japs had to fight for five long months before the defenders of the Philippines surrendered.

4 They threw us out of Burma and Gen. Joe Stilwell led an Allied force in retreat to India.

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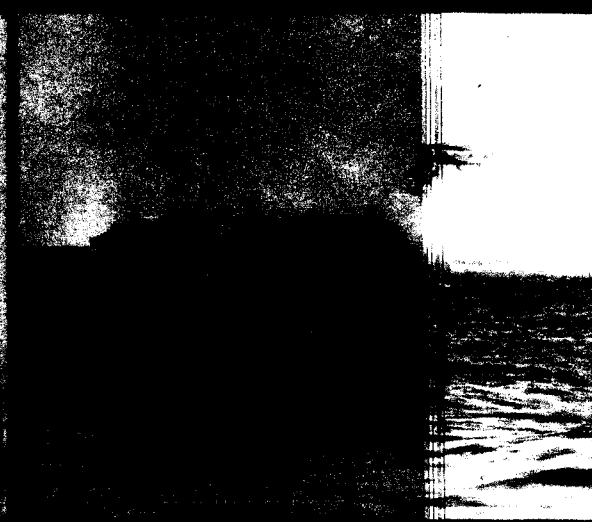
5 But we hit back early. Maj. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle led B-25s against Tokyo April 18, 1942.



6 The Battle of the Coral Sea inflicted heavy losses on the Japs but we lost the carrier *Lexington*.

7 And in June 1942, a month later, we threw their navy for a loss in the Battle of Midway.

8 Bombing Dutch Harbor, Alaska, the Japs came as close to the U. S. A. as they ever would.

9 The tide had turned and our subs were helping it by sending enemy warships to the bottom.

10 More and more of us were going to the Pacific. You need imagination to enjoy a transport.

11 We arrived in Hawaii and sent souvenirs back to the folks. This GI made improvements on his.

12 Australia in those days seemed as far away as you could get, but mail bridged the distance.

13 Training in Australia didn't give much of a hint of what was coming. You could still relax.

14 We landed Guadalcanal and other islands in August 1942. It was the Jap's back.

15 Guadalcanal was a bitter seven-month fight in which we learned "the nature of the enemy."

16 In those early days malaria was a new enemy and one as much to be feared as the Japs.

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The GI's War Against Japan

17 Next in our counter-offensive was New Guinea. Yanks joined Aussies in pushing the Japs back.

18 Mud was a cheap commodity in New Guinea and the Army engineers worked hard to beat it.

19 USO entertainers came a long way to help GI morale in New Guinea with a little schmaltz.

20 GIs, like this howitzer crew, handed out another brand of entertainment to the Nips.

21 Those who were hit were grateful for a GI medic who could fix a bandage in a hurry.

22 Naval actions in the Solomons cut down Jap strength though our ships took punishment.

23 Our land-based planes could get at Jap ships now. B-25s bombed this enemy destroyer, scoring some 15 direct hits, and sent it to the bottom. *The circle indicates a falling bomb that is about to hit.*

24 On May 11, 1943 we invaded bleak Attu in the Aleutians and took it in three weeks.

25 In August, we invaded Kiska. But the Japs had no stomach for a fight and had taken off.

26 In September parachute troops dropped down behind Jap lines near Lae, New Guinea.

27 Mopping up operations on little islands were as tough on the GIs as some major actions.

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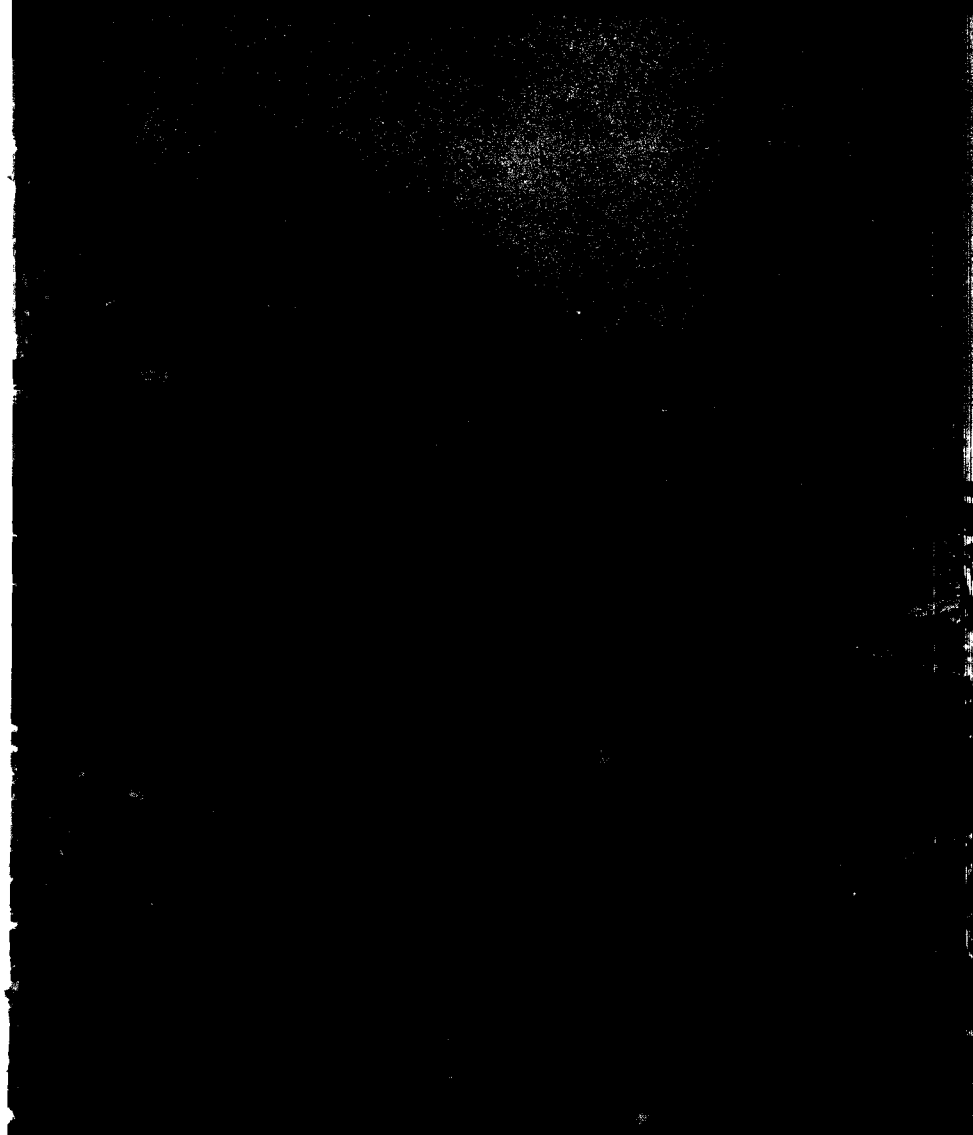
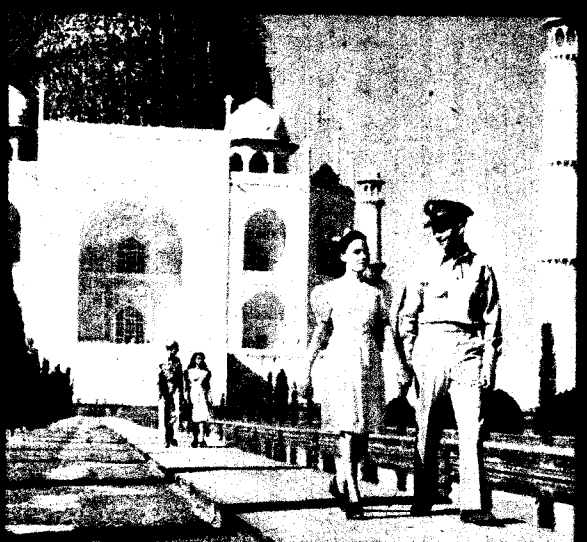


28 On October 31, 1943 [illegible] Marines landed on the Jaspar Marks sector of Bougainville and later the infantrymen came [illegible] Here soldiers were advancing behind a tank, jumping up from their foxholes.

29 In the meantime the CBI was getting more and more populated with GIs, and nurses.



30 If you had a date in India you could take her to the *Taj Mahal*, or perhaps she'd take you.

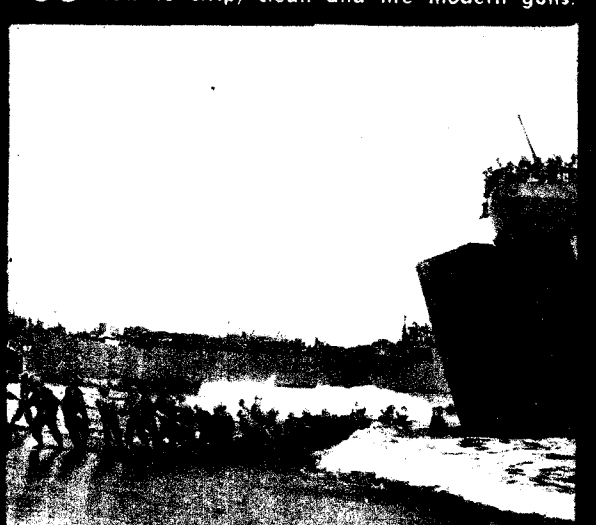
31 Transport planes [illegible] from India ferrying [illegible]

32 Some GIs stationed in lonely outposts in the Naga Hills near Burma were supplied by air.

33 Also in India non-coms were teaching Chinese how to strip, clean and fire modern guns.

34 We invaded Makin [illegible] November 20, 1943 [illegible]

35 We took Tarawa in a short time but at the cost of 1,026 men killed, 2,557 wounded.



36 On December 26, 1943, Marines landed on the beaches of Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

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37 Navy carriers were attacking in the Marshalls, sinking Jap ships and downing Jap planes. Fighter pilots walked toward their planes at start of a mission.

38 The Japs held some very small islands in the Marshalls but the pilots weren't overlooking anything. An ammunition dump was blown up here.

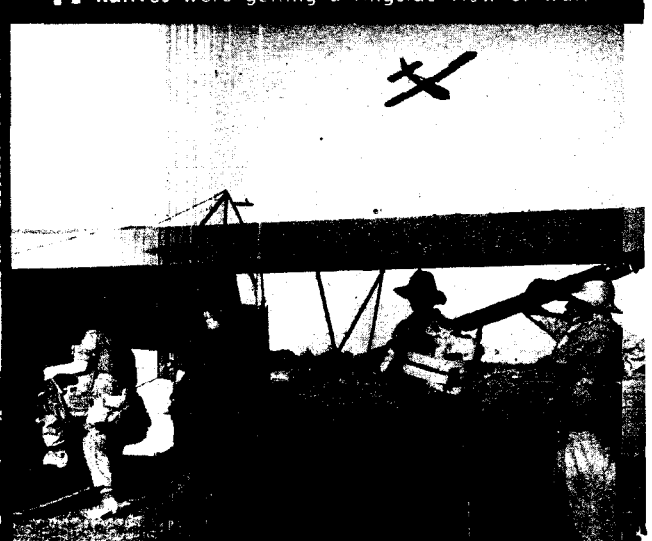
39 In January 1944, after a terrific naval bombardment, we invaded the Kwajalein Atoll.

40 These marines on Roi Island found evidence that the Japs shared our love for pin-ups.

41 When we invaded Eniwetok on February 17 natives were getting a ringside view of war.

42 The Japs gave us no quarter so we had to fight them as relentlessly as we knew how.

43 The Admiralty Islands was not a long campaign but GIs suffered there as in other battles.



44 In North Burma gliders and transports under Col. Cochran landed troops behind Jap lines.

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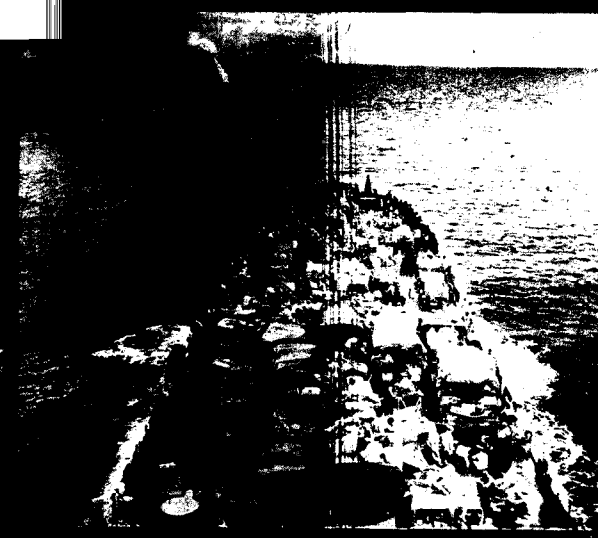
45 And GIs in Merrill's Marauders made forced marches to attack from another direction.



46 In March 1944 Coast Guard and Navy LSTs helped put troops ashore at Hollandia.

47 Japs weren't yet noted for surrendering but some smart ones knew enough to give up.

48 In June, B-29s flying from China raided home industries on Japan for the first time.

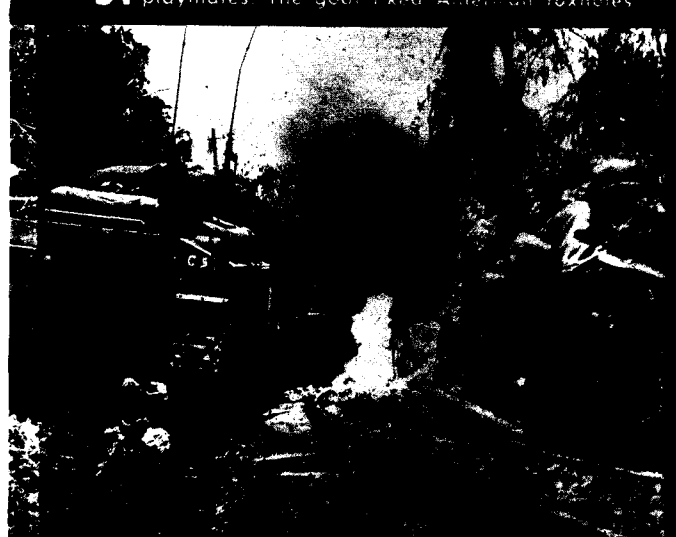
49 After four days of naval attacks on the Marianas we landed on the island of Saipan.

50 The Japs as usual found plenty of holes on Saipan. Here they fought from a quarry.

51 There were Saipan residents who made better playmates. The goat fixed American foxholes.

52 A month later marines went ashore on Guam and took care of some Japs there too.

53 Now we were 300 miles south of the Philippines. We invaded the Palaus in September.



54 On Angaur southernmost of the Palaus GIs cleared the island of Japanese opposition.

55 American power had taken us back across the Pacific to the Philippines. Long lines of transports, backed up by our Navy steamed up to the coasts of Leyte on October 20 to send troops ashore.

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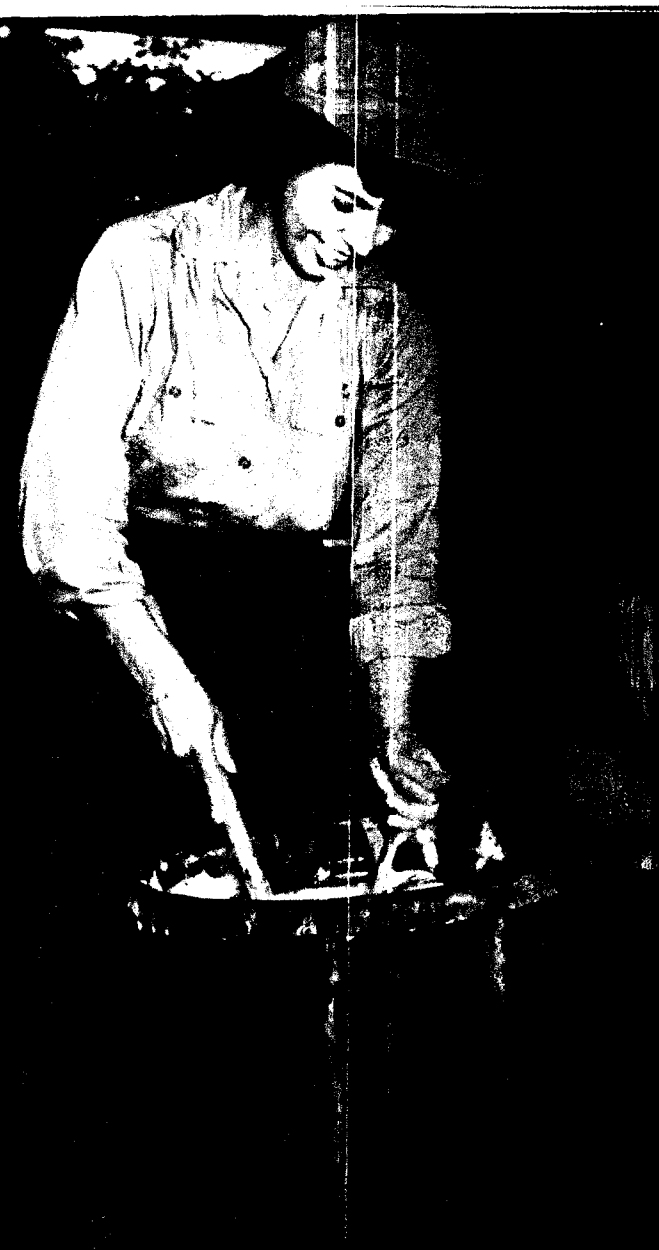
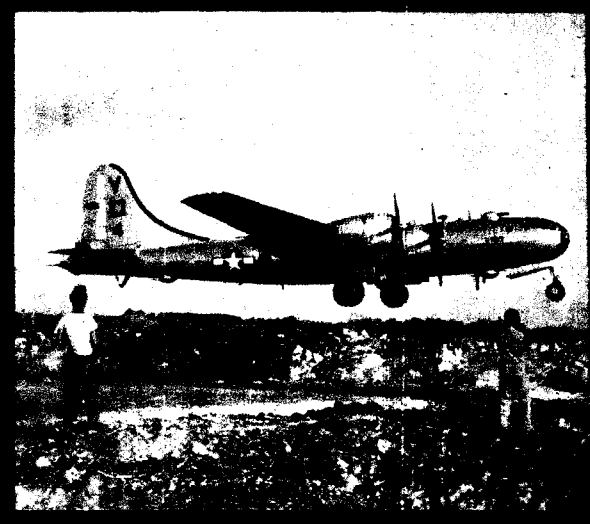
56 We moved inland from the Leyte beachheads to take Tacloban, capital of the province.

57 But there was still much Leyte to win back. Some nights we rested beside our DUKWs.



58 As the clean-up progressed, the rear areas began to look more GI. There were camps with slightly better quarters. The Wacs arrived and some of them shared messing facilities with GIs.

59 On Leyte, too, we got help from Filipino guerrillas, whose night patrols harassed Japs.



60 Meanwhile on Saipan, B-29s had arrived. They made their first Tokio raid on Nov. 23, 1944.

61 And in Burma, after three long years a convoy took the new Stilwell road to China.

62 When the convoy made the trip there were Americans and Chinese driving the trucks.

63 Our next stop in the Philippines was Luzon and Gen. MacArthur toured the front lines.

64 A Luzon schoolteacher saved a bottle of whisky three years to greet us with when we came.

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65 The Luzon fighting became a race for Manila and the 37th Division won by Highway No. 3.

66 As the Japs withdrew from Manila they set fire to all important buildings in the capital.

67 The liberated American prisoners at the Santo Tomas camp got their first world news from us.

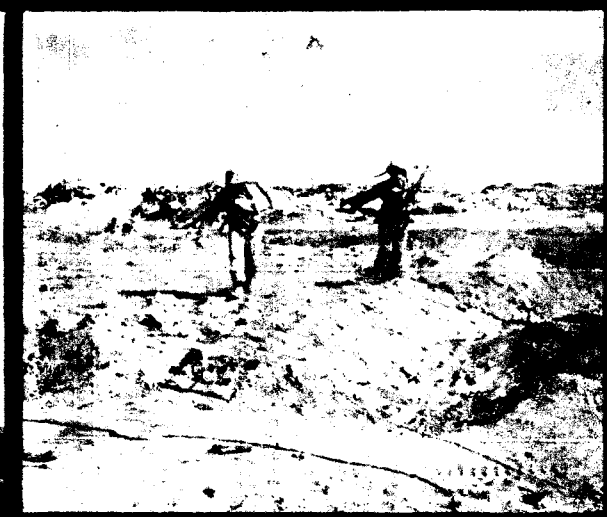
68 Corregidor was [illegible] used demolitions on the [illegible]

69 The Jap navy was on the run and our carrier forces could throw planes against Japan.

70 But Jap planes could still kill from the sky and the Navy buried its casualties at sea.

71 On Feb. 19 marines [illegible] stepping stone on the [illegible]

72 Most famous picture of the war was this photo of raising the flag on Mt. Suribachi.



73 Iwo was bloody fighting all the way. Going was tough on the slippery volcanic sands.

74 We invaded Okinawa [illegible] at first it was almost [illegible]

75 On April 12 President Roosevelt died. The loss was felt wherever his soldiers fought.

76 Our fleet was now the strongest in the world. It was strong enough to invade Japan.

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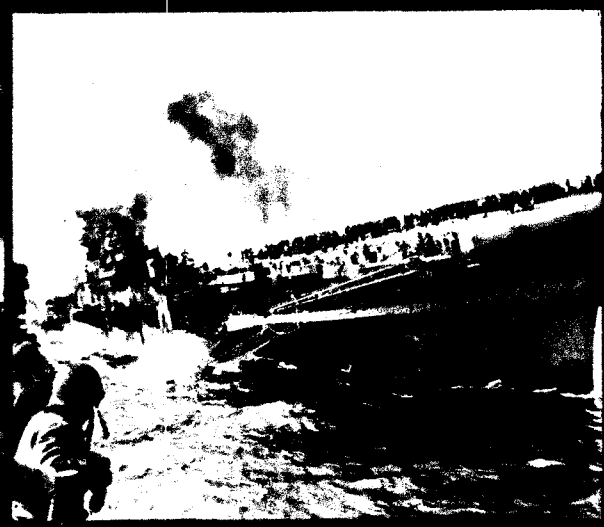
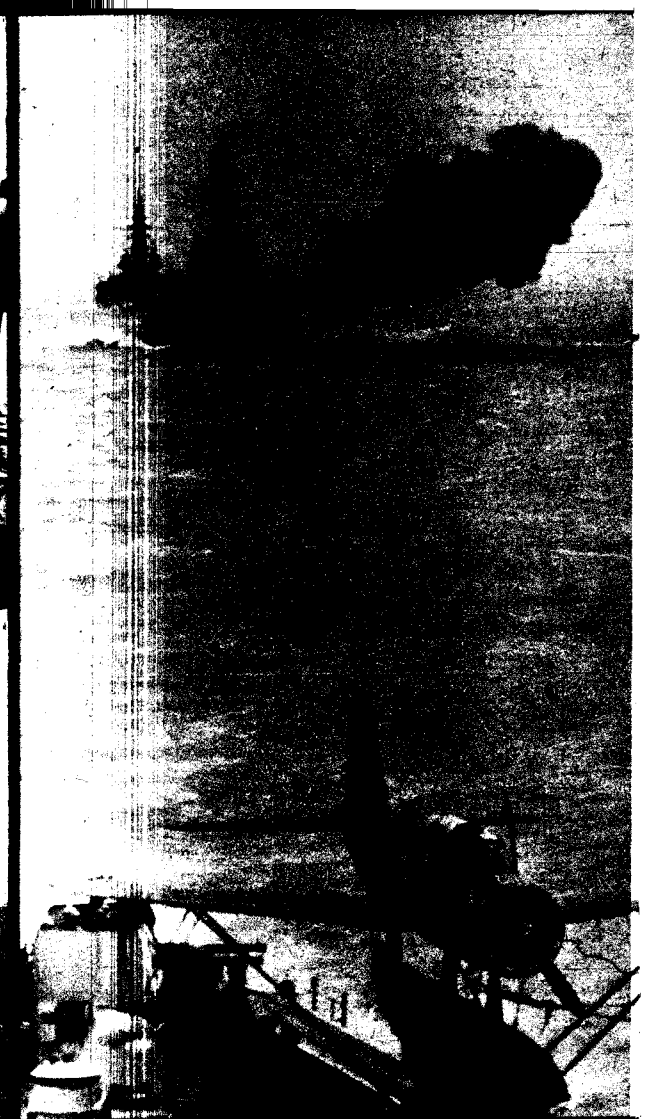
77 The Navy fought continuously off Okinawa against hundreds of Jap suicide planes.



78 The *Franklin* was one of the carriers that the *kamikazes* almost downed but she came back.



79 Okinawa had turned out to be tougher than it seemed at first. It was an uphill fight.

80 The Japs held us up from cliffs and ridges so flame-throwing tanks burned them out.

81 A final humiliation came for the Japs when Halsey's fleet fired broadsides against Japan

82 The rest of the Jap fleet was practically annihilated when we bombed it off Honshu.

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83 The first use of the atomic bomb [illegible] at Hiroshima flattened like this. Its terrible effects plus the Russian declaration of war August 9 made Jap surrender a sure thing.

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Some background on the history of the islands we are now occupying, from the first emperor, Jimmu, who descended from his grandmother's heaven, to the 124th, Hirohito, who bit off more than he could chew at Pearl Harbor.

By Sgt. AL HINE
YANK Staff Writer

THE Japan which we are occupying is composed of four islands and some 70 million people. The islands form a string which cuts off the Sea of Japan from the Pacific Ocean. In order of their size, they are Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku.

The Japanese Government, under one refinement of the imperial system or another, has been a going concern since the earliest historical records, dating back to the seventh century A.D. Of course, there was a Japan before this date, and in Japan the most popular belief is that it was founded by one Jimmu, a grandson of the Sun Goddess, Amaterasu O-Mikami.

This Jimmu, according to the mythological story, was the first emperor of Japan. He came to earth from his heavenly abode, bringing with him The Three Sacred Treasures—The Mirror (a mirror), The Jewels (some jewels) and The Sword (a sword). He landed in Kyushu, the southernmost of the islands. From there, with an army and a grand-maternal assist or two from the Sun Goddess, Jimmu conquered most of that island and of Shikoku and Honshu as well.

Rice is a Japanese food staple and the Japs cultivate it carefully in gardens like this.

This may seem a little far-fetched, but it is substantially the story which has been taught as straight history in Japanese schools. If you told the Japs it was mythology you were looked upon as a dangerous character. They took their mythology, Sun Goddess, Jimmu and all, just as seriously as the late Mayor Thompson of Chicago took George Washington's cherry tree.

What follows is an attempt to explain, as simply and in as short a space as possible, something about these 70 million people who believe in Jimmu and The Three Sacred Treasures—something about their history, their type of government, themselves and the country where they live and where some of us will be living as an Army of Occupation.

About the first definite thing we know about the Japs is that they were occupying their four islands around 600 A.D. in a society composed of various loosely connected clans. The most important clan, which was later to produce the emperor, had a sort of informal control; it might be called upon to arbitrate in fights between other, lesser clans, but there was still nothing like a central government in the modern sense. That didn't come about until 645 A.D.

It came about as the result of a rivalry between the imperial clan and another powerful group, the Soga clan, led by one Soga Isuka. The imperial clan won out and, shortly after, a set of clan rules known as the Taikwa Reform was established. The Taikwa Reform insured the supreme position of the imperial clan as an over-all authority. The position of the emperor, top man of the imperial clan, as top man of all Japan, was made certain.

Unless you are going to make the study a life work, it is just as well to skip lightly over Japanese history for the next few hundred years. It was mostly a cat-and-dog business of local politics, with various big families trying their damndest to get and keep control of the emperor. One of the simplest methods was that of the Fujiwara family, who saw to it that the emperors always slept with Fujiwara girls, either as wives or concubines. It held onto imperial power by this pleasant means for over a hundred years in the tenth and eleventh centuries.

The Fujiwara family became a little soft with such continuous high living, or maybe the quality of their womenfolk fell off. Anyway they slipped from power, and when they slipped, the military took over.

The military had been building power for a long time, and their position had become roughly similar to that of the knights in medieval Europe. Society, in Japan as in Europe, was feudal, which meant that the strongest men, or the men who could whip up the strongest bands of armed retainers, counted for most politically. The people, like the peasants in Europe, didn't count for a wooden nickel.

It was shortly after the decline of the Fujiwara group that Japan faced a major military threat. Kublai Khan, a Mongol-brand thirteenth-century Napoleon, had conquered most of Asia and didn't see why he couldn't add Japan to the collection of nations in his poke. He sent envoys suggesting this to the Japs, but the Japs weren't having any. Kublai followed up the Jap refusal with an invading force of about 150,000 Mongols, Chinese and Koreans; the Japs still weren't having any, and they pushed the invaders back into the Sea of Japan. The whole deal gave the Japs a very good opinion of themselves which they have never seen fit to revise.

Japanese history went back to the uneven tenor of its ways again. There was the usual bucking for control of the emperor, but power remained firmly in the hands of one or another military group.

CHRISTIANITY, which was just another Asiatic religion to the Japs in a period when many Asiatic religions were struggling for supremacy, had been introduced in the sixteenth century and managed to get quite a few followers. The Christians, however, became embroiled on the wrong side of one of the many civil wars. They opposed the powerful Tokugawa family, the final victors. In the battle which decided the struggle in 1638, some 37,000 Japanese Christians were killed.

It was this Christian opposition which helped form the Tokugawa policy of excluding foreigners. Laws were passed which forbade any foreigners to touch the shores of Japan for trade or communication of any kind. The Tokugawa knew they had a good thing in the governmental set-up of that time and didn't want any radical foreign influences to disturb it. The only exceptions to their exclusion laws were the Chinese, the Koreans and the Dutch; they were allowed to trade only under certain strict conditions at certain ports exclusively set aside for such trading.

The Japs lived in a comfortable fools' paradise of isolation for the next two and a half centuries. Things were happening all over the rest of the world, but they didn't bother Japan. There were still civil wars between tribes and rival warriors, but that was life. It was during this period that the famous revenge of the 47 *ronin*—a *ronin* is a masterless warrior—took place.

This story, one of the most famous and popular bits of Jap folklore, is probably important to an understanding of the Japanese. The 47 *ronin* devoted their entire lives to avenging the death of their leader, Yenga, who had been forced to commit hara-kiri by a rival leader, Moronao. In their campaign, they pulled about every possible dirty trick, but, according to Jap folklore, that was all right; anything was all right that served to prove their devotion. From this was derived that national belief that a knee in the groin is unfair only if it's the other fellow's knee. The country at this time was under the rule of the *shoguns*—a *shogun* was the military and administrative official who acted as the emperor's deputy. Since the emperor was actually at this time a puppet, the *shogun* ran the government and used the emperor's reputation both as a screen and a blackjack against any opposition.

The Tokugawa family held the Shogunate from the massacre of the Christians in 1683 until the opening up of Japan by Commodore Perry in 1853. Perry's arrival was, internationally speaking, the next big event in Japanese history.

Perry steamed into Yedo Bay with a modern fleet representative of the military power of the foreign civilizations Japan had tried hopelessly to exclude. The Shogunate was forced to conclude a treaty opening the Japanese islands to foreign trade, and that was the beginning of the end for the Shogunate. The old distrust of foreigners was too strong for the treaty to pass without protest. Prince Ii, who signed the temporary treaty with the United States, England, France, Russia and Holland, was assassinated by the Mito *ronin*. Yamanouchi, the ruling Tokugawa *shogun*, was forced to resign. The treaty lived on, but the old Shogunate perished. The joker was that the nobles who helped throw over the old Shogunate were of the same class as the previous *shoguns*. Japan had what appeared to be an internal revolution, but power was still in the hands of the military—the *daimyo* or great nobles, the *samurai* or lesser nobles, the *ronin* or free-lance warriors.

The new order which came into being after Perry's intrusion was the era of the Mejii Restoration. The label "Restoration" meant that a new emphasis was put on the power of the emperor. He had been slipping into the background for a few hundred years under the influence of the *shoguns*, but now he was dusted off and served up to the nation in all his ancient glory and with a few trimmings added.

The emphasis of Japanese life was placed on an even stronger basis of loyalty to the emperor above everything. The same group of nobles and lesser nobles and military men continued to rule, but from behind the scenes.

Japan, once it had to face Western progress, lapped it up. The nation became known as a land of imitative genius. The Japanese were, to European and American eyes, a "clever little people." They copied steam engines and they copied trains and they copied every other scientific advance and did some productive research of their own. Among the things they copied and improved were battleships and guns. The rest of the world learned about this latter tendency when the Japs in 1904 pulled a sneak attack, Pearl Harbor-style, on the Russian garrison at Port Arthur.

The Russo-Japanese War was short. Because Japan was so little and so new and so cute and Russia was so big and so old and so clumsy, European and American sympathy was generally on the Japanese side. The Russian fleet, which had to go from the Baltic all the way around

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JAPAN

Africa to reach its fighting zone, was soundly trounced by the Jap fleet. The war was settled by international intervention. MC'd by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt at Portsmouth, N. H. Japan got the southern half of the island of Sakhalin and the Liaotung Peninsula and an appetite for getting more.

Under the treaty, Korea had been recognized as a "sphere of Japanese influence." By 1911 the Japs had re-interpreted this phrase and taken over Korea as part of the Japanese Empire.

IN World War I, Japan sided with the Allies. She took advantage of her position to move into China, first kicking out all German agents in China and then presenting to China a program of 21 Demands. The 21 Demands, if accepted, would have made China virtually a Jap colony. Earlier, in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894, Japan had won Formosa and the Ryukyus from China. China now protested these new demands, and the Allied powers forced Japan to back down slightly, but Japan did not forget how close to taking over all China she had been. Japan did win certain rights both in South Manchuria and in Inner Mongolia.

Additional World War I profits for Japan were mandate rights to "oversee the administration" of certain Pacific islands, large gold profits and increased industrial power. She also participated in the ill-starred and short Allied occupation of Soviet Siberia.

Japan was now set to carry her capacity for imitation farther. What she was going to imitate now were the imperialist tactics which had been a blot on the record of the Western powers in the nineteenth century, but were going out of international fashion. Japan did not see what had already been learned the hard way—that ruthless imperialism doesn't pay; she saw only that there was a lot of land that Japan didn't have. There was China and there were islands in the Pacific. There was, in fact, the whole world.

Japan had control of the South Manchurian Railway. This was to be her entering wedge. She had the right to police the railway and to defend lives and protect Japanese property within the railway zone. On Sept. 18, 1931, the Japanese Army charged that the Chinese had tried to derail a Jap express train. The Japanese Army, as punishment for this alleged prank, moved into and took over the key cities of Manchuria.

Before there had been time for much more than polite surprise, Manchuria had become the puppet state of Manchukuo and the Jap-controlled Henry Pu-yi, descendant of the old Chinese emperors, had been proclaimed emperor. The Western nations began to show a little worry about Japan.

They continued to worry, but did nothing more positive when, on July 7, 1937, the Japs, using an incident at the Marco Polo Bridge as a pretext, plunged into war with China. The Japs thought China would be a pushover. China wasn't, and the Japs were committed to a full-time war, a peculiar war where, though they could beat the enemy at almost every point of contact, the country was so large that a well-defined victory was impossible and a continuous campaign had to be waged.

In the same year, 1937, the Japs "accidentally" strafed and sank the U. S. gunboat *Panay* in the Yangtze River. The U. S. protested and the Japs apologized.

Japan slogged along in her China campaign and was viewed with increased distrust from abroad. In 1938 and 1939 overly ambitious Jap commanders tangled with the Russians on the Siberian borders. The Russians brushed the Japs back and inflicted severe losses. The Japs decided that Russia was not yet the proper direction for their expansion policy.

The direction finally chosen was revealed on Dec. 7, 1941, when Jap planes struck at Pearl Harbor and Japan, acting after the event, declared war simultaneously on the U. S., Great Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa. She waited, for some reason, until Jan. 11, 1942, to declare war on the Netherlands, too. Maybe she was out of breath.

The rest of Japan's history should be pretty much an open book to anyone in sun-tans.

The reigning descendant of the Sun Goddess is the only man in Japan who is allowed to ride a snow-white horse.

THE government of Japan, as you might guess from this summary of her history, has varied more in its trimmings than it has in any major matters of policy or control. Japan has always been an oligarchy—always ruled by and for a small group at the top.

This top ruling group, using the emperor as a figurehead ever since the Taikwa Reform, has been predominately military. Even the first great families, like the Fujiwaras, based their power upon military strength. The *shoguns* were primarily military leaders. The *daimyo* and *samurai* and *ronin* who overthrew the Tokugawa Shogunate were all military. Almost without exception, the old warrior families have ruled Japan according to their own ideas and for their own benefit.

Until Perry introduced Japan to the outside world this meant simply that Japan had a feudal economy under a feudal political system. The peasants farmed and got enough out of their farming to live on if they were lucky, and the *ronin* and the *samurai* and the *daimyo* and the *shoguns* lived off the peasants. It wasn't a very happy life for the peasants, but it was pretty much the kind of life peasants had under European feudalism and there was nothing startlingly new about it. The Japanese islands were not large and there was a danger of overpopulation, but that could always be solved by getting the peasants to kill off their children. This policy was known as *mabiki*, or—roughly—"thinning out the crop." And so it went.

All that was *not* changed when Perry's fleet forced Japan open to Western trade. Japan remained an oligarchy and, what's more, a feudal oligarchy.

The military groups who had kicked out the last of the *shoguns* had been smart. They gave the appearance of a revolution, but the power was still with the brass hats. And now, instead of being controllers of a feudal, agricultural economy, they were overlords of an up-to-date industrial economy which they could continue to run according to feudal rules. The emperor was "all powerful"—they cut him in on real estate and on shares of the various industries—and they continued to control the emperor.

This gave birth to an entirely new type of state, a state which was fascist before the word was even thought of by Mussolini. In every European country, the industrial revolution had taken place gradually, the merchants and manufacturers had been in competition with the nobles and the old military set. They had eventually edged the old lords out and taken over the government. The new capitalist power then used the military—the army and the navy—as weapons of a national policy which had been set by the merchants and the manufacturers.

In Japan it was different.

The feudal system had been in full swing when Japan was opened to the world; there was no merchant or manufacturing class of enough strength to compete with the military. When the nobles threw out the *shogun*, they simply took over the beginnings of industry and commerce themselves. Some of the old warrior families went into trade or industry and others remained in the army. It didn't make an awful lot of difference. The same club was running the country, and the people were still working for the guys on top.

This then was the contradiction of Japanese government. While the economy of Japan changed from feudal and agricultural, the political set-up remained feudal, and the military continued to run the country. In 1918, just after World War I, there were stirrings of liberalism and democracy, but they never had enough popular support to stand a chance. The government

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of the emperor by the *zaibatsu* (great families controlling industries) for the military continued, with the average Jap—a feudal peasant living in a twentieth-century civilization—at the bottom of the heap.

The position of the emperor seems to have excited much more curiosity in America than any other one factor of the Japanese state. The emperor is, first of all, just what his name implies, the temporal ruler of Japan. In the 1300 years of known Jap history, the emperor has more often than not been a puppet of the military clique. This is quite logical, since the emperor himself is related to the major families of Japan who make up the military clique, and it is a little difficult to see just why he wouldn't serve them above other, unrelated interests.

Under the Japanese Government which we have just defeated, the emperor was the front man for both the military and the *zaibatsu*. The *zaibatsu* industrialists are thought of as peaceful moderates by some schools, but it is important to remember that the *zaibatsu* families are just those militarists we mentioned awhile ago who took over industry after Japan was opened by Perry. Often their interests are exactly the same as those of the army and navy. The differences between their ideas of expansion and those of the Jap generals seem to have been mostly differences of opinion as to timing and differences of degree rather than differences of kind.

The industrialists and the military behind the emperor saw to it that he got a certain reward for backing up their policies. Technically, of course, not only does the emperor own all the land in the Japanese Empire, he also *owns* all the Japanese people. Perhaps because these rights are more religious than tangible or perhaps to dissuade the emperor from ever exercising them fully, the *zaibatsu* have given the emperor certain more practical possessions. He has a cut of almost every going industrial concern in Japan—silk factories, railways, arms and munitions plants as well as the banks. He owns outright all forest land in the empire and gets his percentage on timber sold. He is potentially the richest single being in Japan and, possibly, the world.

In addition to all this, he is god. This is a natural result of his direct (if you close your eyes to a few doubtful spots in Japanese history) descent from Jimmu, who, you will remember, was the grandson of the Sun Goddess. Hirohito, the 124th emperor, has The Mirror, The Sacred Jewels, and The Sword to consolidate his position. Needless to say, all three Treasures are stashed away in carefully guarded shrines.

THE religion which implies emperor worship in Japan is known as Shinto. Shinto may be superimposed on any other religion, such as Buddhism or Confucianism, the only main requirement being that the believer go back to the older Japanese myths which place emphasis upon complete subservience to the emperor. Shinto, with its attendant emperor worship, was profitably revived at the time of the Mejii Restoration. Shinto has served to keep the people of Japan obedient to whatever orders or "rescripts" the *zaibatsu* get the emperor to proclaim. It is an added safeguard against revolution, for it is one thing to overthrow a ruler but an entirely different one to pit yourself against a god.

The various little superstitions regarding the emperor are more a matter of amusement than anything else to foreigners. His white horse, the fact that no one may look down on him under penalty of death (this is why there are no tall buildings near his palace), the ban against touching him which makes it necessary for his physicians to examine him at second hand while he is still clothed, and so on, are all part of the elaborate rigmarole which serves to keep his holiness constantly in the public mind. Hirohito, to give him some slight credit, knocked down a few of the more extreme superstitions regarding the imperial sanctity. He married for love and planned to have his wife crowned at the same time as he was. He broke up the old tabu against the imperial feet ever touching the ground by walking occasionally instead of being carried. For a completely out-of-date myth, he has been comparatively progressive.

Hirohito is 44 years old. He has what is known as a weak chin and very poor eyesight. He has been interested in such diverse pursuits as marine biology, tennis, poetry, golf and philosophy. He has never seemed to be terribly interested in either his army or his navy. One of the few things the emperor is allowed a free hand in is

High-ranking generals stand review. Men like them have ruled Japan for at least 1,300 years.

picking the name for his reign; Hirohito picked *Showa*, which means "radiant peace."

Hirohito's 70 million people are mostly peasants. There isn't enough room for everyone to be a *zaibatsu* or a general. The peasants in the country farm, send their excess girl children to work in city factories and their boy children, excess or not, to the army, which is strictly a selective-service proposition. The peasants in the cities work in factories. A sizable number of peasants live by fishing, a relatively profitable pursuit, since fish, along with rice, is a staple of the Japanese diet.

Living standards are low in Japan, and most of the people have looked on the army as a pretty good life, particularly since anything connected with the military has always been highly thought of. The factory workers are paid an unbelievably small amount by U. S. standards, but nevertheless some of the country girls manage to save up enough to go home and offer attractive monetary bait for a husband.

Prostitution is well-organized, as Yanks who have occupied areas recently left by the Japanese Army know. *Geisha* girls, contrary to popular belief, are not all prostitutes and are usually high-grade, very carefully trained social entertainers whose services are available only to the upper classes.

The usual contact with *geishas* is anything but the quick slap and tickle fondly imagined by GIs. It is as formal as an English garden party and, to the uninitiated, just about as boring. You sit cross-legged at a low table, and the *geisha* serves you tea and maybe sings a little. She also talks and laughs. The singing, talking and laughing are all done according to very exact and refined traditions. You take off your shoes when you enter the house; that is about the only thing that fits your original ideas.

The Japs are great people for public baths. It used to be that men and women bathed in the same places, but this has been changed except in the sticks. The best baths, for the Japs' taste, are the hottest baths, and the temperature often mounts to 140. If you are fond of Finnish steam baths, Japan will have at least this one attraction for you.

In spite of Japanese hatred for foreigners, most of Japan's larger cities were pretty well westernized before the war. Some of the citizenry dressed in Western-style clothes while others stuck to traditional Japanese clothes, but there were automobiles and streetcars and many modern buildings.

Education in Japan is well organized, but far from thorough. The Japanese have one of the highest standards of literacy in the world, but usually their education stops with reading and writing. Once a Jap has been taught to read and to write and to worship the emperor according to the approved formulas, he isn't encouraged to go further. He is, in fact, forcibly discouraged if he gets any ideas that run counter to the ideas of the ruling classes. Japanese education is a little like giving a man a knife and fork and then cutting off his head if he uses them.

The Japanese show physical signs of their low standard of living. They tend to be short and to have poor eyes. They make up, in many cases, for their lack of height by good muscular development. They are long on gymnastics, and the tough, stocky legs of the trained Jap infantrymen are well-known to GIs in the Pacific.

ALL four of the main Jap islands have one thing in common; they are mountainous. Honshu, the largest of the four, is 800 miles long and shaped like a peanut shell. In area it is roughly the size of Utah. The whole island is hilly, but the northern half is really rugged. The tallest mountain is 8,114-foot Mount Nantai.

Since the islands are mountainous and in about the same range of latitude, it is no surprise that their climate compares with that of our Atlantic States—say the coastal regions from Maine to Georgia. Geologically, the islands are of volcanic origin, and some volcanoes, still lively enough to squeak and steam and bubble, are tourist bait. The most famous volcanic peak is, of course, Fujiyama, near Tokyo on Honshu, and it yearly draws the biggest crowds of footloose Japs. Like everything else that draws crowds in Japan, Fujiyama has some sacred significance. The whole region is subject to earthquakes.

The Kwanto Plain, on which Tokyo is situated, is the largest habitable region in Japan. Besides Tokyo there are in this area 40 cities of more than 10,000 population.

Tokyo is one of the most thoroughly and unpleasantly congested areas in the world. The population of Tokyo was over seven million at last count, and Yokohama, on the same side of Tokyo Bay, had a population of close to a million. The whole Tokyo Bay area used to be pretty messy due to crowded living conditions, and with the added attraction of Allied bomb damage it should have very little appeal today.

Kyoto, at the southern end of Lake Biwa in the south of Honshu, is an ancient city which used to be a hangout for the emperors. The Japs like to call it the "Paris of Japan." It is full of places of historic interest and is the center of Japanese art.

Osaka and Kobe are both industrial cities on Osaka Bay, and both of them were priority targets for our Air Forces. Osaka is Japan's second largest city, and Kobe used to be her largest port for foreign trade. Both cities are rail centers. Kobe used to enjoy also a certain specialized fame from the Kobe Sex Shop, which printed, in a strange brand of English, the most unabashed catalogs of curiosa ever seen.

Nagoya, Japan's third largest city, is also on Honshu on the Ise Sea, a small suburb of the Pacific. Its pre-war population was 1,500,000. It is the site of the big Mitsubishi bomber plant and has taken a pounding from B-29s.

One of the larger cities on Honshu used to be Hiroshima.

Hokkaido, the second largest island, is not so widely populated. It points up toward the Kuriles and was a possible landing point if we had ever invaded from the north. Its mountains are largely clustered in the south, and its northern section consists of miles of rolling plains. It is shaped roughly like a flower pot 150 miles high, 260 miles across the top and 140 miles across the bottom. There are only three cities of impressive proportions, Sapporo, Otaru and Hakodate—all in the south.

Kyushu, third island according to size, is the southernmost of the chain. It is a rough rectangle 200 miles long and 60 miles across. Nagasaki was its largest city. Kumamoto, Omuta, Saesebo, Kagoshima, Yawata and Fukuoka are its largest remaining cities. Saesebo, which suffered from B-29 raids, was a naval center, like Nagasaki. Yawata took a pounding also because it was an important steel center. Moji, another large city, is on a peninsula which points up at Honshu. The two islands are connected here by a double-track underwater railroad tunnel.

Shikoku is the smallest island. It is also the least important economically. It is mostly mountains and rocks, and only a mother could love it. It has only one large city, name of Kochi.

The four islands, the 70 million people, the screwy system of government, all of them will be something our occupying army will have to keep an eye on for the next question-mark years. When you look at them on the map or when you read about them in history, it seems impossible that they could have caused so much hell. We've done part of our job by beating them. Maybe, if we do the rest of it right, they'll never cause hell no more.

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Schwellenbach

PEOPLE ON THE HOME FRONT

By Pfc. ROBERT BENDINER
YANK Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—What may prove to be one of the toughest details of the war has been wished on ex-Pvt. Lewis B. Schwellenbach by ex-Capt. Harry S. Truman. To hear Judge Schwellenbach tell it, that is precisely the way he looks upon his appointment as Secretary of Labor—and, like any GI picked for a detail, he made a feeble effort to beg off. But when the President reminded him that millions of other men were getting assignments they'd prefer not to have, the judge quietly abandoned a lifetime job on the Federal bench and resigned himself to what may be an uninterrupted headache for much longer than the duration-and-six.

Stepping into the office occcupied by Frances Perkins ever since the first Roosevelt inaugural, the new cabinet member finds himself with a man-sized job on his hands. The Secretary of Labor, to quote from the department's official statement of purpose, "is charged with the duty of fostering, promoting, and developing the welfare of the wage earners of the United States, improving their working conditions and advancing their opportunities for profitable employment." During a period in which millions of GIs will cease being GIs and join the ranks of those wage earners it is obviously an advantage to have as Labor Secretary a man who knows the problems of returning veterans and can help smooth the transition from fatigues to overalls.

With this consideration in mind, it is easy to see how President Truman came to think of Judge Schwellenbach for the job. Not many men in the country can match a lifetime interest in veterans with years of service as a labor lawyer. Of these, still fewer can claim the high regard of rival labor groups, and fewer can boast on top of these qualifications the personal friendship of the President of the United States. Schwellenbach must have seemed a "natural."

Born in Superior, Wis., of German parentage, Schwellenbach moved with his family to the Pacific coast at the age of 10, and following the death of his father four years later, sold papers on the streets of Tacoma to put himself through school and the University of Washington, from which he received a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1917. At this point the career of the future Secretary shifted from campus to camp and Schwellenbach shouldered the duties of his first public office—that of a private in the 12th Infantry. After a prolonged tour of garrison duty in various parts of the country the 12th was about to embark for France when the Armistice brought a change in plans. With a discharge in his pocket, Schwellenbach returned to his adopted state of Washington and was presently admitted to the bar.

SCHWELLENBACH joined the budding American Legion and soon was established as its vice-commander for the Department of Washington. In this capacity he had an opportunity to tour the state, and while doing so became absorbed in a tragedy that was to have a lasting effect on his thinking. On Armistice Day, 1919, in an atmosphere of hysteria, a group of ex-servicemen raided a hall belonging to the IWW in the town of Centralia, Wash. The barricaded members opened fire, killing three Legionnaires.

That same night one of the captured IWW men was taken from his cell by a mob and hanged from a bridge-span. The incident—and the hatred it generated for years afterwards—made a deep impression on Schwellenbach, and he addressed himself to the task of smoothing the differences between veterans and labor. The extent of his success may be measured by the fact that he not only succeeded to the state command of the Legion but was subsequently invited to an American Federation of Labor convention as an honorary delegate. Clearly diplomacy of a high order.

In 1932 the Democratic Party in Washington nominated Schwellenbach for governor of the state and he campaigned on a platform that included public ownership of public utilities and state operation of idle factories for the benefit of the unemployed. He lost rather badly, but two years later made a successful campaign for the U. S. Senate.

Schwellenbach was sworn in as a senator at the same time as Truman of Missouri. With Minton of Indiana, Hatch of New Mexico, and a few others, he belonged to a group of "Young Turks," a band of freshman Senators who went down the line for the Roosevelt Administration. Schwellenbach favored the President's reorganization of the Supreme Court, urged an embargo against Japan in the early days of Nipponese aggression in China and in his repeated fights for New Deal legislation refused to abide by the Senate tradition that newcomers to that august body should be seen but not heard.

Probably his most dramatic performance on Capitol Hill was his success in shutting off a filibuster by the late Huey Long. Silencing the Kingfish was a daring feat and took 15 hours of determined effort. The technique, however, was simple. Huey had been holding the floor for days at a time by introducing into his remarks everything from whole chapters of the Bible to recipes for corn pone. At the end of the day he would ask for a recess, and threaten to go on talking all night rather than yield the floor if the recess were not granted.

Rather than sit out such an ordeal, his fellow-senators had been giving him the recesses he asked, but Schwellenbach and his freshman colleagues were determined to call Long's bluff. "I hope the Senator from the canebrakes realizes," Schwellenbach announced, "that within the last half-hour myself and each of the eight new members of the Senate around me have gone out and drunk three cups of coffee apiece, which will enable us to stay here for another 12 hours, while the Senator from Louisiana speaks." Long made a terrific effort to wear down the Young Turks, but at 3:50 A.M. he capitulated. After 15 hours of oratory mixed with 15 glasses of milk, nature got the better of him. Recess or no recess, he had to leave the chamber. The filibuster was broken.

In 1940 Schwellenbach resigned his Senate seat to accept an appointment as U. S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. He enjoyed the judicial life, his friends say, adding that only President Truman's appeal induced him to discard the black robe of the bench for the gabardine jacket and gay necktie he sports in the privacy of a cabinet office.

At the age of 50, the new Secretary of Labor, thin of hair and with gray brows almost thick enough to lock with those of John L. Lewis for the beetlebrow championship, is as informal in manner as he is in appearance, but he speaks firmly, precisely and with an air of assurance. He has a reputation in Washington as a hard worker, and it is easy to see from his 200-pound, six-foot frame that his energy does not come principally from the bottle of vitamin capsules that rests incongruously on his desk. Affable though he is, he does not belong to the gayer set of the capital. He doesn't drink, and his idea of relaxation is summed up in a cigar and a solid book.

Secretary Schwellenbach is reluctant to discuss the numerous problems that face him until he has had a chance to overhaul his Department. This is the high-priority task at the moment. First the depression and later the war have produced a collection of government agencies in the labor relations field that sometimes duplicate each other and at times appear even to work at cross-purposes. The new secretary is not certain that he can have—or even wants—*all* these agencies drawn together under his authority, but he does believe that some reorganization is called for. "We are going to consolidate into this Department," he told a press conference, "the agencies that ought to be in it."

The new Secretary is a great believer in the power of personal mediation. Looking back on his days as a labor lawyer in Seattle, he expresses the hope that "labor unions will let me be not only their advocate but also their adviser." And as for the labor unrest which some authorities expect to follow in the wake of peace, he says, "I am not going to stop all strikes. My job, however, is to minimize labor controversies to the greatest possible extent."

As for the delicate question of "super-seniority" for veterans—that is, the right of a veteran to be restored to his old job even though an employee of longer standing might have to be discharged to make room—the Secretary insists that the courts must decide. But his own sympathies for the GI are as deep as his sympathies for the trade unionist. In fact, he does not concede that there is any real issue between them. As long as labor behaves in a responsible fashion in its effort to maintain wage and hour standards, he points out, it is really benefiting the veterans, since they will enjoy the advantages of labor's gains when they return. "The rank-and-file veteran and the rank-and-file labor man," he says, "have too much in common for both to suffer as a result of a disagreement." The genial Secretary remembers Centralia, but he thinks we have learned a lot since the first World War, and he feels strongly it will all be different this time.

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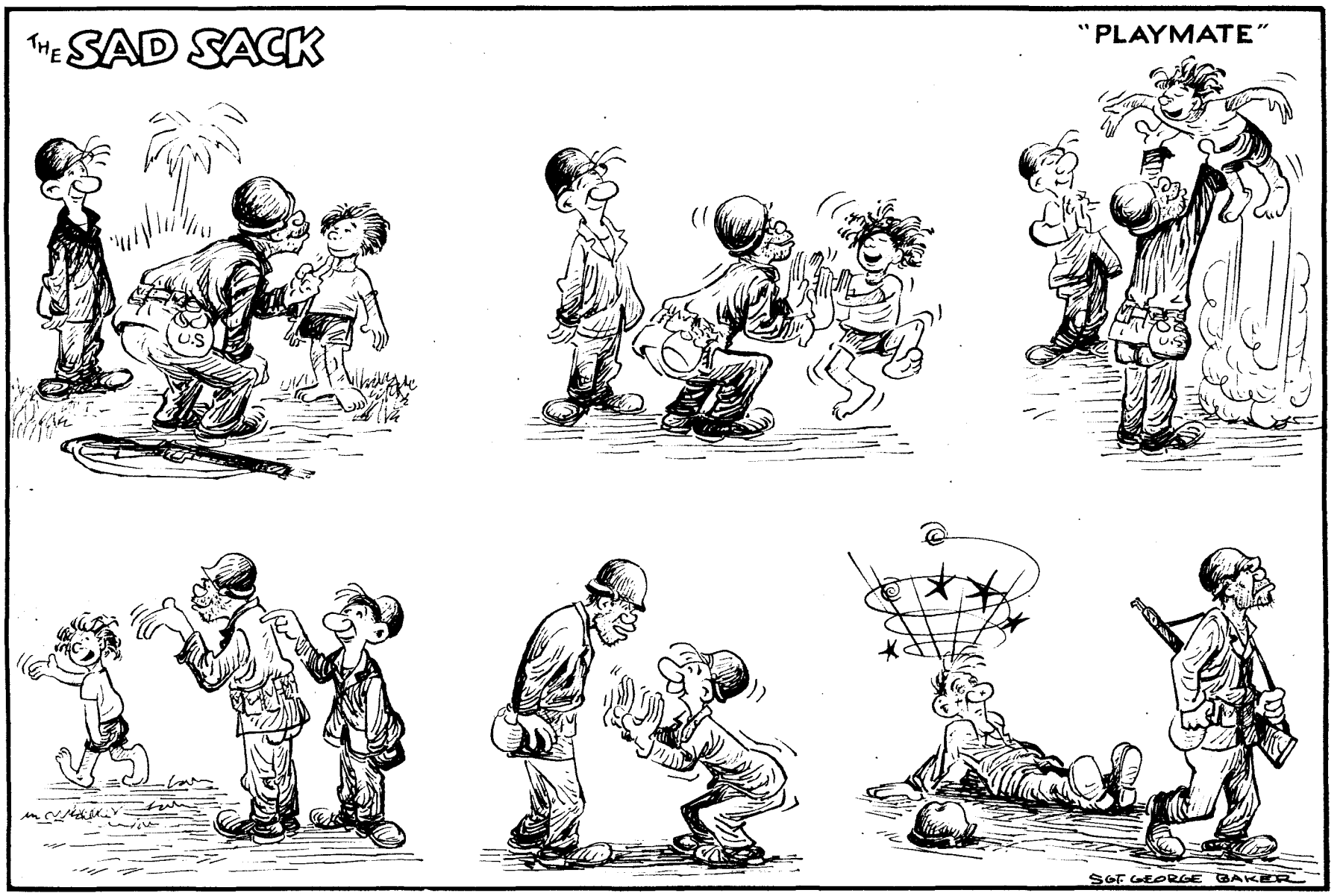

Dependent Mother

Dear YANK:

I am getting out of the Army very shortly. After I take a short vacation I plan to go to school under the GI Bill of Rights. I know all about the tuition and the amount of schooling I am entitled to but I am not clear on the subsistence allowance. As I get it a vet gets $50 a month while going to school. All well and good. I have a dependent mother and am not married. Can I claim her as a dependent, and get the extra $25 in subsistence money or are only wives and children dependents under the GI Bill?

Guam —S/Sgt. HERMAN ROBINSON

■ You will be entitled to the extra $25 a month paid to veterans who have dependents. The Veterans Administration has ruled that parents as well as wives and children will be considered dependents so far as the subsistence allowance is concerned.

SPAR's Allotment

Dear YANK:

When I came out here over a year and a half ago I didn't realize that my one and only would turn out to be a first-class bitch. Here's the spot I'm in:

I took out a family allotment for my wife when I was inducted, at which time she was a civilian. About six months after I was sent to the Aleutians she joined the SPARS. She wrote me telling me to cancel the allotment as she wouldn't need it any more and couldn't get it anyway as she was supported by the Government. OK. So I had the company clerk get permission from headquarters to cancel the allotment. From then until January 1945 I drew my full pay. In January I was redlined and received no pay. No one seemed to know the reason why until headquarters gave us the dope. My wife had written to the ODB and requested that the allotment be renewed. So, without a word to me, from the ODB, or her, or anyone else, the allotment was renewed. And to top it all, the Government gave her a check for 11-months back allotment which I have to make good to the extent of $22 a month.

In other words, my wife gets $106 a month, room and board from the Government and I get a great big $10 a month until the back allotment is paid off. She spends all the money running around and when I asked her for some money and told her to save the $550 she told me what I could do. What I want to know is: 1) Can they renew an allotment without my consent and without even telling me? 2) Is she entitled to part of my pay as well as her pay from the Government? 3) Can I get an allotment out of her? There has been some scuttlebutt that women in service can make out an allotment. Is that true? 4) The Government supports her; why should I have to?

Alaska —(Name Withheld)

■ It looks like you got a raw deal but there is nothing much you can do about it. Your wife is entitled to an allotment whether she is in service or not. A wife does not need her husband's consent to get an allotment. When your wife applied for the allotment the ODB should have notified your orderly room which in turn should have told you about it. It looks like somebody fumbled the ball. While it is true that women in service can make out a family allotment to their husbands, such allotments are only approved where the husband is "chiefly dependent" upon the wife for his support. Since you are in service you haven't got much chance of claiming that you are chiefly dependent upon her.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

Letters to this department should bear writer's full name, serial number and military address.

Job Rights

Dear YANK:

Under the GI Bill of Rights there is a clause stating that a man in the service must be employed by his former employer for a period of 90 days after he leaves the Navy. I stayed away from my job for a period of 30 days in order to get into the Seabees. It was the only way I could volunteer for induction and be sure of getting in because my job was considered essential at that time. What I want to know is whether my former employer can turn me down when I get out of service or whether he must give me my job back.

Aleutians —R. J. SAMOLY S1c

■ He can turn you down. Since you were not employed at the time you entered the service you are not entitled to the reemployment benefits of the Selective Service Law. Further, your information about a veteran's right to his old job is completely wrong. The Selective Service Law (not the GI Bill of Rights) provides that honorably discharged veterans must be reemployed at their old jobs for a *full year* if they apply for their old jobs within 90 days after discharge. However, only those veterans who were actually employed when they entered the service get this protection. Those who left their jobs of their own accord, no matter what the reason, are out of luck.

Civil Service

Dear YANK:

I am a civil service employee with over four years of military service to my credit. Is it true that I will get credit for that period of time toward within-grade salary increases? Is it also true that these increases are now granted after only one year instead of every 18 months?

Germany —T/Sgt. MIKE BATES

■ Both your statements are correct. Civil service employees on military duty are entitled to count the time spent on active duty towards the time required for within-grade salary advancements. A recent law cut the time period from 18 months to one year.

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News From Home

As American forces moved into Japan, the main topics of home-front discussion, in addition to occupation, seemed to be reconversion, redeployment and demobilization. Action on the first seemed to be going faster than action on the other two, the reason being that future handling of redeployment and demobilization depended on the success of occupation. But even before a single U. S. soldier had set foot on Japan, the Government evidently felt it safe to give industry the green light to convert from wartime to peacetime production. This seemed a good sign that strictly military questions could also be handled before too long on a non-war basis.

Reconversion. Within two weeks after the Japs verbally agreed to accept the Potsdam surrender ultimatum, wartime controls had been lifted from about 85 percent of U. S. business. The reason for lifting the controls was simple: The Government wanted industry to start making peacetime goods so that long-unsatisfied consumer needs could be filled and so that thousands of ex-war workers could get steady jobs.

The end of fighting brought a temporary wave of unemployment. As the Army and Navy canceled war orders, factories shut down and once-well-paid workers—an estimated 200,000 in Detroit, 150,000 in New York City, 1,730,000 in all—overnight found themselves jobless. The sooner plants can re-tool for peace, the sooner discharged service people and former war workers can find employment.

Among other steps, the Government promised an early lifting of the building industry's controls and predicted a billion-dollar privately financed housing program next year. It also ended most rationing controls and promised to remove nearly all food items (except sugar) from rationing by the end of 1945. Many price controls were also lifted—the general idea appearing to be to get business back on a normal footing as soon as possible.

Come Christmas, the press was told, once-rare items like radios, washing machines, alarm clocks and nylon stockings will be available in some quantity. By spring, automobiles, for which an unlimited supply of gas is now available, should be plentiful.

Experts figure that there is an accumulated demand for 11,000,000 passenger cars, 41,000,000 radios, 1,000,000 sewing machines, 82,000,000 clocks and watches, 10,000,000 refrigerators, 6,000,000 washing machines, 17,000,000 electric irons and 8,000,000 toasters.

Most economists expect an interval of temporary mass unemployment before plants can re-tool. To help tide the unemployed over the reconversion period, Congress, which cut short its vacation when the Japs quit, was asked to raise unemployment benefits. It was asked also to recognize "full employment" as a Government social goal—a goal to be reached, under the terms of a long-pending bill, by providing for Government-financed public-works projects whenever private employment slackens.

Reconverting, workers make frosted-food cabinets and plane wings (right) at same time in Los Angeles plant.

Nylons are coming back, and these lucky ladies in San Leandro, Calif., were among first to get some.

Congress was also expected to concern itself with the problems of returning GIs. The Senate was scheduled to follow the House in passing a bill to liberalize the provisions of the GI Bill of Rights. Some thought that in addition Congress would ask the War and Navy Departments many questions about their redeployment and demobilization programs.

Redeployment. There was a brief flurry of excitement when some 580 members of the 95th Division, back from the ETO and slated for the Pacific, protested, in a telegram to the White House, against being sent across another ocean. The senders of the telegram, which was turned over to the War Department, took the view that they had already done their duty.

The War Department's comment was that more troops were needed for occupation, that men with 75 points or more were being removed from divisions in the U. S. slated for occupation duties, as were men 37 years old. In general, the brass declared, military necessity alone governed its redeployment policy.

Demobilization. Military necessity, War Department spokesmen also told the press, governed its discharge policy. The press was given to understand that if the Japs proved tractable, the critical score in the point system of discharges would promptly be lowered. The WD repeated its promise to do everything possible to discharge 5,500,000 men within the next year to 18 months if all goes well in the task of occupying the Jap home islands. In a broadcast Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Henry, assistant chief of staff and director of personnel, declared that he could not predict "just when each new lowering of the discharge score will be announced" but emphasized that "it will not be delayed to the point where discharges will be slowed up because there are insufficient men eligible for discharge." He added: "You can be sure that we will never allow empty berths on any ship returning to the U. S."

Some Washington sources think that Congress may ask all the services a number of questions about their various discharge plans, and a number of sources predict that there may be disagreement between the services and Congress over continuance of the draft. The services take the stand that if the draft, now cut to 50,000 men a month and limited to men under 26, is abolished altogether, there won't be enough replacements for the occupation forces. That would mean, the services say, that men now in uniform would stay in uniform longer than they'd have to if the draft were continued.

Some Congressmen, however, have been quoted as holding the view that the occupation forces for both Europe and the Pacific can be filled with volunteers and that the draft will no longer be needed. The services appear to have the backing of President Truman in all their postwar plans. He voiced general approval of the services' demobilization-by-points systems and said that any discharge plan, however good, would be sure to have some critics.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

The State Department, which has been undergoing reorganization since **James F. Byrnes** became its head man, got two new Assistant Secretaries—**Spruille Braden**, former ambassador to Argentina, and 33-year-old **Frank McCarthy**, former secretary of the War Department's general staff. In civilian life McCarthy was once a press agent for a play called "Brother Rat."... **Bob Feller** went back to the Cleveland Indians after getting his discharge on points from the Navy. In service since Dec. 10, 1941, Feller had 45 points, just one more than necessary for discharge. ... Two Hollywood film notables—**Dick Powell** and **June Allyson**—got married. Powell's first wife was **Joan Blondell**. It was Miss Allyson's first marriage. ... **Mrs. Ernie Pyle**, widow of the famous reporter, objected to a campaign to raise a couple of million dollars for a park and cemetery in Indiana in Pyle's memory. She said that an expensive memorial "violates everything that Ernie was." She also declared that she would never consent to removal of his body from Ie Shima, where he was killed. "Ernie is lying where he would wish to lie, with the men he loved," she said.

IN BRIEF

The Fish and Wildlife Bureau, a Federal agency in **Washington**, warned that DDT, the Army insect powder, which has been getting a big play in the U. S. press, kills birds, fish and friendly insects as well as pests. The bureau said that after a **New Jersey** lake had been sprayed with DDT, 75,000 dead fish were counted on the shore. ... The FBI arrested more than 100 railroad dining-car employees for allegedly defrauding the Government and GIs. The racket, said to have been carried on throughout the East and as far west as **St. Louis** and **Chicago**, went like this: Dining-car employees would tell GIs entitled to meat on Government meal tickets that the meat was gone and they'd have to take salad. Then the employees would sell the meat to civilians at high prices. ... Fate seems to have linked Pfcs. Kenneth J. Schneider and Edwin R. Gould once and for all. They got inducted the same day, went overseas on the same ship, got captured and liberated at the same times and arrived in the U. S. on the same boat. Now back home in **Davenport, Iowa**, they're due for discharges with the same number of points. ... The Navy disclosed that it had fought the "Second Battle of New Orleans" in the Gulf of Mexico. From May, 1942, to December, 1943, U-boats sank 196,970 tons of Allied shipping in Gulf waters; before the Navy got things in hand, several ships were sunk at the very mouth of the Mississippi.

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YANK
THE ARMY WEEKLY

Mail Call

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This Week's Cover

VETERAN of Attu, Kwajalein, Leyte and Okinawa, S/Sgt. Grayson Wilkins qualifies as a symbol of The GI's War Against Japan (pages 2-11). The 27-year-old rifleman, who comes from Nelson, Va., was photographed on Okinawa by YANK's Cpl. George Burns. Those scars on the stock of his M-1 are the result of hits from shell fragments.

PHOTO CREDITS. Cover—Cpl. George Burns. 2 through 11—YANK staff, Sig. Corps, Army Air Forces, U. S. Navy, Marines & Coast Guard, Acme, INP, PA, OWI. 12—Three Lions. 13—PA. 14—Three Lions. 15—Wide World. 20—Nelson Morris. 22—Army Ordnance Tech. Int. 23—Upper right, Sig. Corps; left and lower, Army Ord. Tech. Int.

Monkey Business

Dear YANK:

Some time ago I read that a lieutenant in Alaska had been discharged for making a profit of $300 on the sale of a dog. Is there someone among your readers who would like to buy a monkey for $500?

India —Cpl. ROBERT L. CROOP

Duration Plus

Dear YANK:

The average serviceman is wondering if the so-called "duration-plus-six-months" clause will turn out to be nothing but a myth, an idle statement written without forethought.

To put legal teeth into the clause "national emergency and six months thereafter," the writer submits the following plan for the serviceman's consideration. For each month of service in the armed forces, over the six-month period after the expiration of the national emergency, those men inducted under the Selective Service Act will be entitled to the following benefits:

1) $250 per month over base pay, adjustment allowance.

2) One (1) point per month bonus (over the five-point allowance) toward Civil Service employment; not to exceed 15 points.

3) One (1) year federal income-tax exemption for each month in excess of the six-month maximum retention, under the act.

Adoption of such a plan by the Government would do much to alleviate the hardships confronting the servicemen discharged too late to take advantage of the limited number of jobs that will be available after demobilization.

Treasure Island, Calif. —P. J. ETZKORN CY

Wine and the Nazi Line

Dear YANK:

Too many soldiers think that they can teach the Germans the meaning of the Four Freedoms and the value of the democratic way of life. What they do not realize is that the Germans already have a propaganda line, which they are most anxious to spread. What is this line? "The German people are not responsible for Nazism and the war. Yes, we started to support Hitler, but when we realized our error, it was too late. We knew nothing of the horrors of Buchenwald and Dachau. We have suffered enough. Do not be harsh with us."

...You drink their wine, you try to preach democratic principles to them, and they will come right back at you with a plea for kindness. They act hurt when you do not admit to feeling sorry for them. Drink a little more of their wine, and you'll find it a bit impolite to tell your host that he is responsible for Germany's present place in the world.

One thing we have to remember. The German possesses a keen mind and is now beginning to come out of the bewilderment he has been in for months. The bombings are over now, the troops are settling down. What he wants is that this occupation be as easy as possible. He is not going to help us rid Germany of her Nazis and war criminals. Hell, no!—that would be an act of treason to the Fatherland. The Germans who help are those who have suffered physically, who have lain in concentration camps. The others who stayed back and fell into line will not lift their voices against their former leaders.

The Germans will tell you—as you sip that *Mosel wein* or that wonderful champagne—how horrible the Nazis were, how nobody could work if he didn't fall into line, how the Gestapo was everywhere, how the *Wehrmacht* was the army of the people and meant nobody any harm. It was all the fault of Hitler, Himmler and the *SS*. And you listen to this stuff from most Germans. Nobody was a Nazi, nobody mistreated or starved foreign workers and Jews. Anybody who ever did anything has long since run away—so they say.

Your preachments about democracy will fall on deaf ears. Hitler has succeeded—the Germans believe all the lies and untruths about the *Untermenschen*, the Russians. They supported Hitler in 1933 against a false bogeyman of Communism in their own land, and they still believe the propaganda line Goebbels et alia poured at them for years. They want Americans to give them an easy occupation and protect them against the *Untermenschen*, while they rebuild their country in safety. They are not interested in democracy. They are totally incapable of understanding the concept of moral and political responsibility, a basic requirement of a democratic life. They will turn your discussion of democracy to their own plea for mercy. Then they will plant in your mind the suspicion of Russia.

Fraternization with Germans will give them the opportunity they are seeking. Don't think that you can teach the individual German democracy. If he wants democracy, he will have to learn it himself. He knows the principles, for he had his chance after the last war. He knows and understands force and authority. Keep him under our leadership and he will be an obedient German. But fraternize with him, and you will find out quickly how much he really wants to be friends with us.

For it is really much too early in the game to take chances with the Germans.

Germany —(Name Withheld)

Up Allotments

Dear YANK:

It seems to me that the serviceman's wife and family are the ones that are taking a beating in this war. The Government is forcing a lower standard of living on GI families by holding their allotments to a strict level while the cost of living has in no way been successfully controlled.

In 1942, when the family allotment was started, it may have been set on a fair basis but why shouldn't the family allotments be increased more to a living-cost basis?

As an example I will cite a family of three. How many of the citizens of the U. S. could and would be satisfied to live on $3.33 per day? That is the approximate amount that the serviceman's wife with two children has to exist on at the present time.

If the powers that be in D. C. think that the cost of living hasn't increased why are they suggesting a raise for themselves? On the other hand if our Government thinks the amount sufficient for a decent living standard I wish they would print a lengthy document and mail it to all service wives on "How to Run the Model Home on Class F Allotments."

Marianas —T-4 JOSEPH H. COBLENTZ

Next Champ

Dear YANK:

It's getting so a guy can't see a picture of Joe Louis or Billy Conn without the caption telling you, "the next champ is some unknown, now in the armed services."

To raise a mildly dissenting voice—and I'm no Max Fleischer—I don't think the next champ of any boxing division is in the service right now, at least not overseas.

We have plenty of good service battlers, and it won't be that your ex-GI fighter will lack skill or courage; he just won't have the physical stamina. It's true that after the last war, Tunney, Criqui and a lot of other first-rate pugs came out of the armed forces. But in World War I, the GIs were only in the Army for a year or two, and if you spent 10 months overseas you were an "old soldier."

Probably no other sport takes as much out of a man as boxing. To travel 10 or 15 hard rounds, a guy has to be in the pink, without a weak spot in his body. Many a big-time pug has slipped to the bottom of the pile because some minor ailment spoiled his speed and timing.

All this adds up to the fact that a man who has been overseas from one to three years hasn't that stamina. This

"It's one of those lousy days when you almost wish you were a civilian."
—Cpl. Tom Flannery

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isn't a beef about Army food, but it must be recognized that eating C rations, dehydrated spuds and other canned foods, meal after meal, doesn't build the kind of muscles boxing calls for. Supply lines being what they are, it is impossible to give the soldier fresh milk and vegetables. Add a shot of Italian *vino* now and then, and the fact that many soldiers suffer from enlarged livers, malaria, hepatitus, and the other "occupational" diseases of war, and you have a man fitted for ordinary living, but not for the superhuman job of traveling 10 rounds.

Army conditioning may be tough, but it isn't anything like the highly specialized training grind a boxer undergoes every day. After three or four years of Army life, a guy gets soft. Not soft in the usual sense of the word—the Infantry boys would never be called soft—but soft for a boxer. You get fat where it counts the most, inside, around your heart and other organs.

To be realistic, your next champ will be some kid who was 15 the day the war started, and will be 18 or 19 the day it ends. Despite rationing, he will be a healthy kid, stacked to the ears with fresh food and vitamins. Along about the eighth round, those vitamins will start to count, and he'll knock hell out of your C-ration fighter.

Italy —Cpl. MARIO GRAHAM

MP Date Bureau

Dear YANK:

T-5 Anatol Kovarsky's cartoons of Paree were all pretty authentic and I liked them except for one that made me mad enough to call him "Liar." The caption said, "Friends are easy to make though MPs frown."

MPs in Paris never frowned upon GIs making friends with the fair sex. I was an MP in Paris from early September until February and I was often approached along *Boulevard de Madeleine* and *Place de l'Opera* by lonely, shy GIs asking where they could meet a gal. Often I acted as interpreter between our soldiers and their girl friends and although my French was none too good, I always helped out and acted as unofficial date bureau. I got a big kick out of it.

Camp Pickett, Va. —Pfc. LOUIS SIEGEL

WHO SPEAKS THE 'CLEAREST' ENGLISH?

Dear YANK:

I was much interested in the question of sectional English brought up by Pfc. Davenport in a recent *Mail Call*. The question was: "What part or parts of the U. S. speak the clearest English language?" Possibly, as a former speech teacher in Kentucky (born in upstate New York and educated at the University of Iowa), I may be able to help Pfc. Davenport in his quest.

There are three great dialect areas in the United States: 1) the New England Area, comprising the New England states; 2) the Southern Area, made up of the Southern states and southeastern Texas; and 3) the General American Area, the rest of the United States. These three large areas are in turn broken up into several hundreds of smaller dialect areas.

Dialects spring up in many curious ways. Sometimes they come about as a struggle to learn English; sometimes they are an old-fashioned form of English. For example, although New York City is in the General American Area, it has within its limits hundreds of dialect areas where the people, foreign-born or the children of foreign-born, isolate themselves into groups according to their original mother tongue. Each group struggles with the English language; the Greeks lack the sound "i" (as in "bit") in their native tongue and substitute "ee" (as in "beet") whenever "i" appears in an English word; the Germans substitute "t" for "th," and so it goes. In the South there are hundreds of towns and counties and areas which in some unexplainable way have been cut off from the rest of the world for a period of a century or two. The inhabitants retain the speech of their earliest English, Irish or Scotch ancestors. Often you can tell the country a man's from as soon as he opens his mouth. People from Tidewater, Virginia, for example, can be identified by their pronunciation of the word "about," which for them is "abeoot"—"e" as in "bet," "oo" as in "boot."

If you consider the size of the General America Area, it is plain that the

majority of Americans speak this dialect. This, however, does not mean that the English spoken by this majority group is the most perfect or "the clearest," as you put it.

There is no answer to the question of who speaks the clearest English. We lack a criterion, a standard of judging. Professors Gray and Wise of the speech department of Louisiana State University feel that if there is a criterion for the speech of a particular area, it is the speech of the best educated natives of the area. Opinions differ. Many high school teachers worship at the shrine of New England speech. Some New Englanders worship at the shrine of British stage speech. George Bernard Shaw once served on a committee to study speech standards for the BBC, a committee composed of English and Americans. After several weeks of blood, sweat and tears, Shaw said he realized that the committee was unable to agree upon a standard for the pronunciation of such simple words as "Yes" and "No." In an article which he wrote later, Shaw said that the only criterion of speech which any man could adopt was to make certain that his listeners secured the impression that he was intelligent and educated. Even within these limitations Shaw felt that anyone could observe differences in his own habits of speech when at home or when conversing with strangers.

There is one more item to be considered. The way a person pronounces a word depends on 1) where he lived when he learned to talk, 2) with whom he lived, 3) where he was brought up, 4) where he was educated, 5) where he has lived during the rest of his life. To hear these differences in speech is an education in itself. If there is to be one "clear English language," a levelling-off process will come about by observing and comparing the pronunciations of words when we are with people. But differences in pronunciation are often beautiful and always interesting. Do we want everyone to be alike?

Pfc. Davenport's group of nine has a wonderful opportunity to make an experiment. It has representatives of the three main dialect areas, and perhaps representatives of four smaller groups. The group might try this. Observe what happens when each of the nine pronounces the word "weather." I bet Boston says "wethu" ("u" as in "butt"), that the boys from Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota say "wetherr"; that South Carolina says "wethu"; that Alabama says "wethu" or "withu." Now Texas will sound like Alabama if he lives near the southeastern border, and like Iowa if he lives in the rest of Texas.

Here's a list of words. Each one must pronounce each word by itself or in a sentence before going on to the next word. Listen and compare pronunciations of the same word. Here's the list: *pen, pin, pan, pond, pain, cow, part, oil, night, news, aunt, part, thought, evening, I, hog, out, early, care, sofa, here, parker, chair, food, memory, nature, dog, exactly.*

When the group gets through with these, there are 200,000 more in the dictionary. I hope this doesn't start a murder.

Azores —T/Sgt. BENJAMIN B. HICKOK

Personal Spittoons

Dear YANK:

I am a machinist in a large air depot in the Marianas.

We were told if we were more than a minute late we'd be busted. All well and good. We were also told we couldn't work a minute on any personal job. Fine. That's the way it should be.

Yet these same high-ranking officers that send down those orders clutter up our shop with an endless line of jobs that have no bearing whatsoever on the war effort. At present hundreds of man-hours are being wasted making dies for wrist watch straps and spittoons for officers' clubs while important jobs are set aside.

This was brought to the attention of the air inspector but it seems that no one on the island will do anything about it. Can't anything be done about those and other atrocities that are too big to mention?

Marianas —(Name Withheld)

Points for Prisoners

Dear YANK:

In all the plethora of suggestions as to changes in the point system I note that one group of GIs most deserving of attention is left completely out of the conversation.

Why not award some extra points—plenty of them—to all the members of our armed forces who have been prisoners of war, either in Europe or the Pacific? These lads went through experiences which few will ever forget.

—S/Sgt. GEORGE A. WELLS

Drew Field, Florida

Negro Soldiers

Dear YANK:

I received a copy of your magazine and read that the AMG is letting the Germans go back to school. After that I read in *Mail Call* about the Jim Crow treatment of colored American soldiers.

Now I am from Mississippi. Until I came into the Army I hated Negroes. It wasn't anything they did to me; I just didn't like them. Since I have been in the ETO I have fought from D-Day to VE-Day with Negro soldiers. I was wounded twice in one foxhole and a Negro saved my life by using his first aid kit on me. Then he carried me to where a doctor could work on me. This was under heavy fire. Later he died. He was from New York and he knew I was from the south where he had no freedom.

Many Negro soldiers have died on the front for American soldiers who thought Jim Crow was right. So if Germans can have freedom after they have caused so much suffering and destruction, why not let the Negro race have what they fought for? I feel that they should, and a lot of southern GIs feel the same way.

Germany —T/Sgt. WILLIE JONES

Dear YANK:

The other night we had a jam session with some colored boys from a Quartermaster trucking outfit quartered near us. This morning we were read an order which prohibits us to associate with the colored troops "except on business."

A colored tank outfit fought side by side with this regiment clear to Steyr, Austria, and we were never ordered not to fight alongside of American troops of the colored race, so why should we be forbidden to associate with other American soldiers because of color?

Germany —Pvt. DAVID ICHESON

Wrong River

Dear YANK:

After reading a recent YANK, I am anxious to know how the picture you used for a cover was taken near Owensboro, Ky., on the Mississippi River? Was the mistake made in the name of the river, or the town, because Owensboro, Ky., is on the banks of the Ohio River and is some distance from the Mississippi?

Chicago, Ill. —Cpl. CHAS. W. REVLETT

■ It was the Ohio and not the Mississippi.

Comparative Ratings

Dear YANK:

...A check into the matter of comparative ratings in all of the services would uncover disparities which I think are fairly obvious to the casual observer. Why is it that the Army has hundreds of thousands of privates who have seen several years' service, while the Navy advances men in the equivalent rank of apprentice seamen automatically upon the completion of boot training? In any gathering of servicemen most sailors display at least one red stripe, which makes them of equal rank to an Army buck sergeant, and most of the soldiers have only one Army stripe which places them on an equal footing with a Navy man after just about three months of boot training. . . .

—Cpl. DONALD B. PETERS

Ft. George Wright, Wash.

Generals and War

Dear YANK:

Ever since VE-Day, the redeployment of generals to the States has been working with the speed and efficiency all GIs dream about. But I'm not kicking about that so much, as generals are human to a certain degree. What irks me is their unbridled tendency to shoot off their mouths.

With sickening regularity these homecoming generals get up on some platform before a crowd of American mothers and fathers and tell their audience how much they hate war, how it grieves them to send men out to death, and how much they deplore the ruin war leaves in its wake. Not one general has had the guts to come out in the open and say "I love war." For that must be the truth, because generals don't dedicate a lifetime of work learning how to kill people and destroy property unless they're mighty interested in their job. I would believe Tommy Manville if he said he hated sex, before I would believe any general who crys, "I hate war."

Italy —(Name Withheld)

Serious Blunders

Dear YANK:

With reference to combat men who had their combat Infantry badge taken away from them for failing to salute, being out late, etc., such ignorance of or indifference to War Department regulations on the part of their CO is inexcusable. What punishment will the CO get for trampling on the rights of those men? The answer is none.

It is such as this that makes enlisted men disgusted. We break some silly little rule or regulation and they want to throw the book at us. They (the officers) make a serious blunder like the above and nothing ever comes of it. Why not a court martial and a $100 fine for being so careless, especially when the rights of others are involved?

India —S/Sgt. ROBERT E. MOORE

Age Limits

Dear YANK:

I am quite curious to know why there should be an age limit of 30 years in the State Department's proposed plan to employ 400 GIs.

I think that this age limitation is a reflection upon the rights of a serviceman. Certainly we were not barred from our constitutional obligation to bear arms for this reason.

Under the point system for discharges from the Army age carries no consideration whatsoever. If the Government itself sets an example of barring men for their age alone, think of what a party private industry could have.

Ryukyus —Pfc. SIDNEY STEINBERG

Poets Defended

Dear YANK:

The Corporal in a recent *Mail Call* tossed rather a low punch. I think that most of us who have submitted rhymes to YANK and have been accepted have not had any "Intimations of Immortality" or have been consciously aware of any slavish imitation. The following is not so much a vindictive rebuttal as it is a trite inspiration. Perhaps I merely felt guilty!

IN DEFENSE OF SOME ORDINARY RHYMERS

Scorn not these efforts, Corporal;
We write as we damn please;
No rocking horse has heard the call,
No Boileau, Shakespeare, Pope, et al
Are consciously at squeeze.

So from your lofty crag look down
The *pince-nez* on your nose—
Behold the herd! Wipe out the frown
That hints of intellect's renown
And strike a natural pose!

Or, if that effort is too great,
The tilt too highly tilted,
Won't you take pen to consummate
The poem which you calmly state
Is neither trite nor stilted?

Orlando, Florida —Sgt. KEITH B. CAMPBELL

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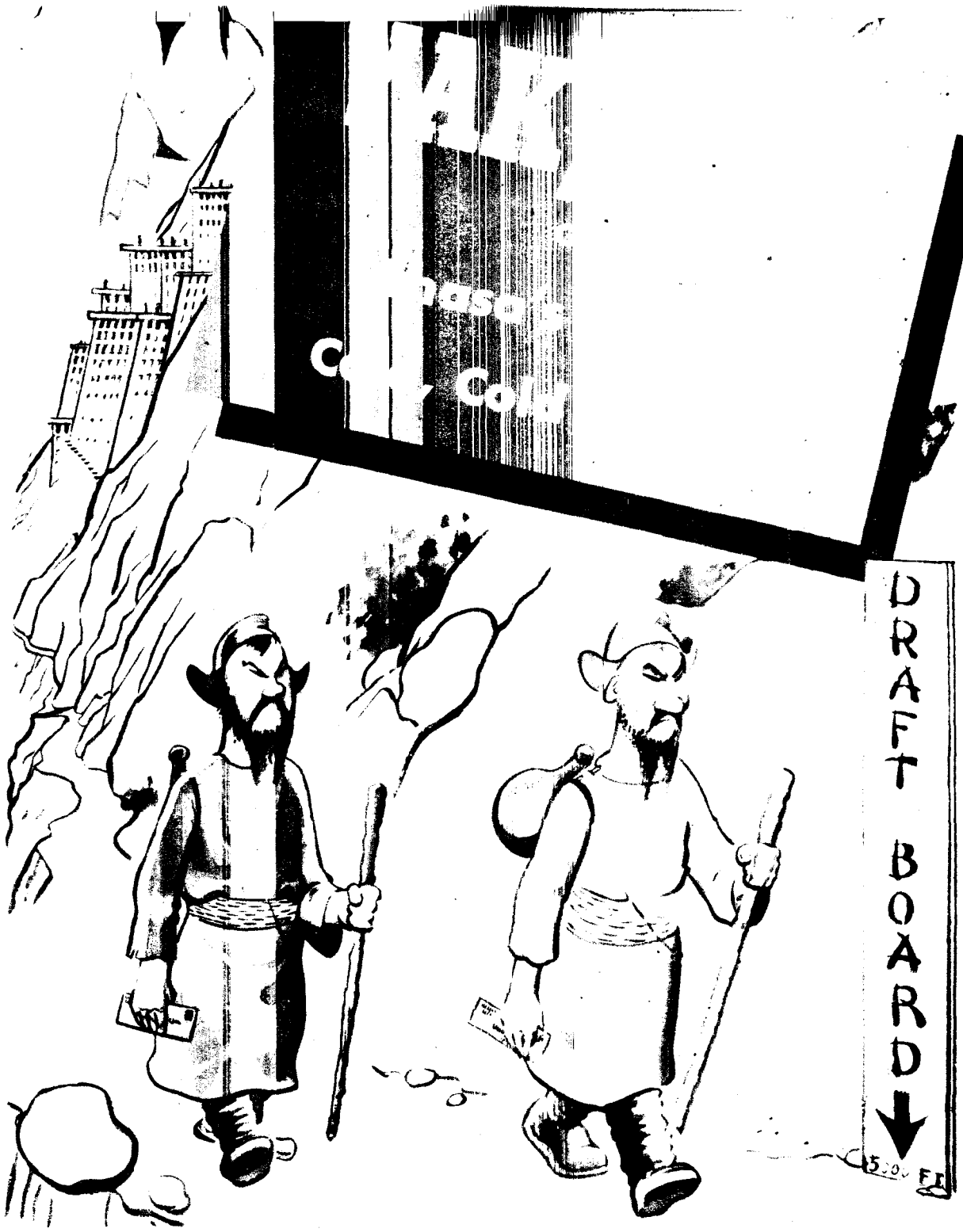

By Cpl. JAMES DUGAN

"Allied troops interned two strange prisoners-of-war recently—two natives of Tibet who have served in the Russian Army and the German Army. The Tibetans could find no one to talk to for three years, because they know only Tibetan and met no one who could speak their language. The men accidentally wandered into Soviet territory in 1942, were drafted into the Red Army, captured and forced to serve in the Wehrmacht."
—NEWS ITEM

The following dialogue takes place in Tibetan. The prisoners are seated in a corner of the prison cage. The first Tibetan is named Jhoe, the second is named Whillie.

JHOE: Boy, do my feet hurt. From now on I travel strictly by yak. How far do you think we marched from good old Lhasa?

WHILLIE: I figure it must be at least 95,000 lengths of a pig's entrails.

JHOE: Jeez, lay off the chow talk. What I wouldn't give for a big bowl of curdled yak's blood right now. The stuff they eat around here sure stinks.

WHILLIE: I wonder what my old lady is doing right now?

JHOE: I'll bet she's shacked up with one of the horse merchants that stayed home and dodged the draft.

WHILLIE: What do you think of these pink women around here?

JHOE: Why these brown-coated soldiers would want to fraternize with them beats me. Why, half of them have yellow hair.

WHILLIE: What I'd give just to hear a little old Tibetan girl talk right now. A real Tibetan girl with her face smeared with caoutchouc, and her old charm box hanging around her neck. Ah, me.

JHOE: Where'd you ever see chicks like that? You know damn well they don't have nothing like that at Gyantse where you come from.

WHILLIE: And what's a matter with Gyantse? You guys up at Lhasa don't have nothing to look at that'll compare with the Sacred Lake. Boy, that's a man's country: hunting the sloth-bear and lookin' at them glaciers. I can see myself right now, laying in a yak-hair tent with the dung piled up high outside to keep out the wind, knocking off a case of barley beer without a care in the world. That's the life for me. When I get out of this man's army I'm gonna take off for the old Sacred Lake. They'll have to come after me with bows and arrows to get *me* to join up again.

JHOE: You know, Whillie, I woke up in the middle of the night, dreaming I was drinking a big mug of buttered tea, laced with wild-ass milk.

WHILLIE: These soldiers in the brown coats seated in the mechanical oxen could do with a little hot-buttered tea. God, they're pale.

JHOE: I wonder what outfit this is. It's a different one than those last guys in the green coats.

WHILLIE: It's all the same to me. They don't work us as hard as those last guys, and since we got bivouacked in this camp-with-twisted-wire, there don't seem to be nearly as much drill.

JHOE: Hah, you found a home in the army, eh?

WHILLIE: You remember those guys we served with before we transferred to the green coats? They wasn't bad guys, even if I couldn't make head or tail of their language.

JHOE: They were pretty smart, though. Even their little kids can speak Russian.

WHILLIE: Just the same, here's one GI that's fed up with that furrin talk.

JHOE: That strong white beer they had was good. (*Sighing*) My god, we been in a long time. How many overseas charms you figure we have now?

WHILLIE: Thirty-six moons have risen over Mt. Everest by my count.

JHOE: I wonder who's gonna get in as Dalai Lama? The old one musta kicked off by this time.

WHILLIE: Who cares? You can bet those politicians put in a guy they could control. Just wait till the servicemen get home, things'll change in Tibet.

JHOE: Why, you clucks over there in Gyantse, what in hell do you know about how to run the country? Every time I seen any of them Gyantseans in Lhasa they was gandering around at the buildings getting in the way of the oxen. Why you're so dumb you still have polyandry, when everybody who's up to date has switched to polygamy.

WHILLIE: Lhasa ain't Tibet. One of these days the people of the steppes are gonna wake up and put in their own Dalai Lama, and get a square deal for the farmers and the vets.

JHOE: Listen, old man, I've been listening to that dung all the way from Fort Dhix. I'm sick and tired of it—you hear! I don't like your politics and I don't like the way you smack your lips all the time thinkin' of barley beer.

WHILLIE: Nerves! Nerves! You ought to get out and talk to someone else for a change. You'd find a lot of guys have woke up. You're in a rut, Jhoe.

JHOE: Ya, I guess that's it. I wish there was somebody to talk to.

THE gay young lady at the beach is Eileen Coghlan, who was born in Northampton, Mass., 21 years ago. She was brought to Hollywood at the age of 11, where she showed her versatility by acting in the movies, drawing cartoons and modeling fashions. She also knows how to wear a bathing suit, a fact you've noted.

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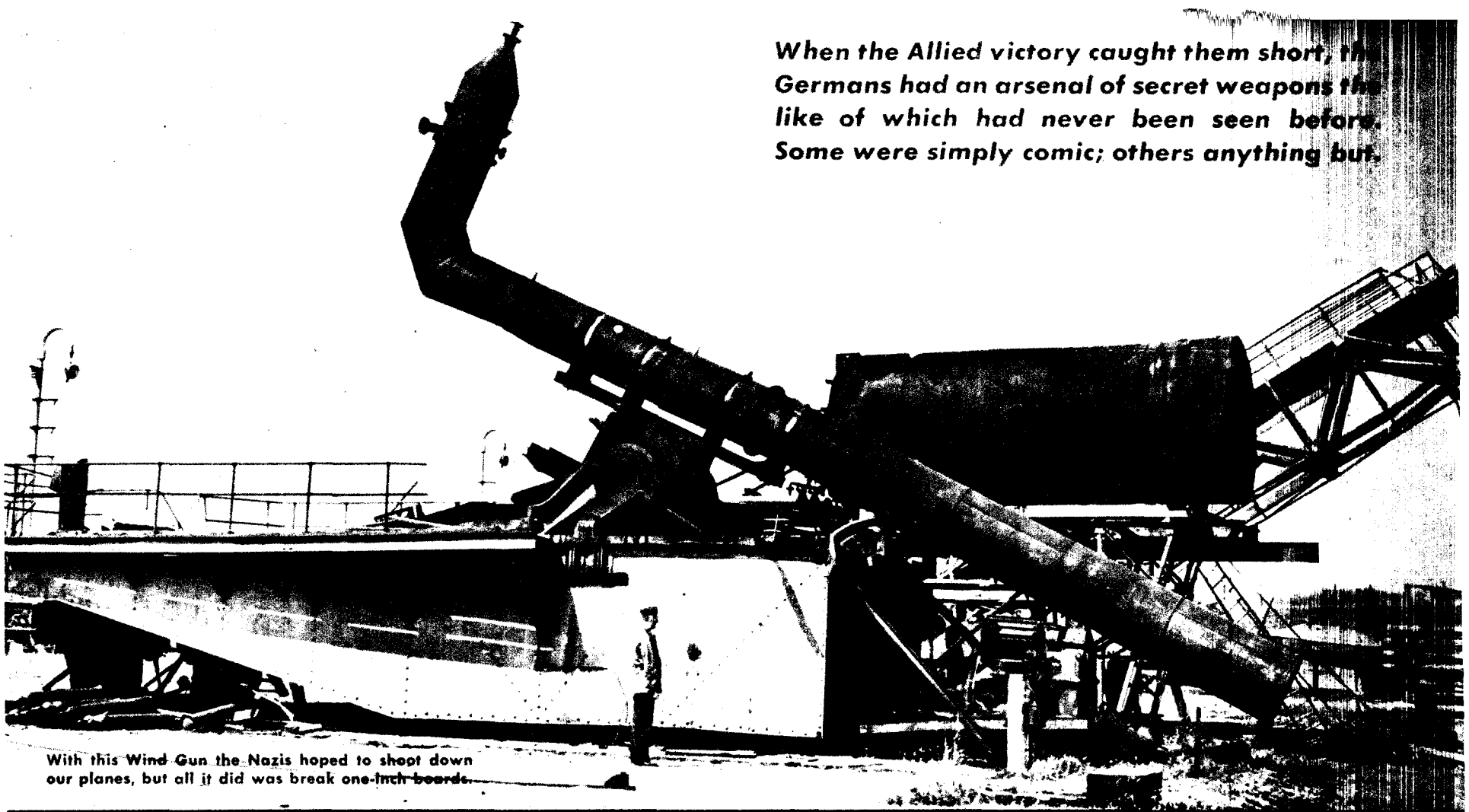
When the Allied victory caught them short, the Germans had an arsenal of secret weapons the like of which had never been seen before. Some were simply comic; others anything but.



With this Wind Gun the Nazis hoped to shoot down our planes, but all it did was break one-inch boards.

Nazi Secret Weapons

By Pfc. ROBERT BENDINER
YANK Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—With almost his last breath the late Dr. Goebbels promised the late Third Reich "secret weapons" that would stop the Allies in their tracks and change the course of the war. Not long after Dr. Goebbels passed belatedly into oblivion, Allied scientists came up with the atomic bomb, a secret weapon to end secret weapons. The Germans, it was revealed, had also been working on an atomic bomb, but on this score their scientists were considerably behind our own, diverted perhaps by work on those other "secrets" at which Dr. Goebbels had darkly hinted. Were these really super-weapons—or merely the last flight of fancy of Germany's ace liar?

Officers of the American Army's Ordnance Technical Intelligence Branch have been seeking the answer—at the rocket experimental station at Peenemuende on the Baltic, in numerous German factories, at the giant proving grounds at Hillersleben and at many other spawning grounds of German ordnance. More than 200 American technical experts drawn from U. S. industrial firms, universities and Government agencies have also been making on-the-spot investigations, while German scientists themselves, eager to ingratiate themselves with the conqueror, have been sounding off at a great rate. Scores of experimental specimens and models of novel weapons have been captured and are still being subjected to close study.

"People are generally scared by the most fantastic weapons," according to a lieutenant colonel in the Ordnance Technical Intelligence Branch here, "but usually these are the least practical as far as winning a war is concerned." A brief tour of an imaginary German arsenal of advanced weapons, chiefly of the screwball and scare variety, should make this clear. The arsenal, remember, doesn't exist, but the weapons are all real.

To the left as we enter is a curious affair called the Wind Gun. This experimental specimen was discovered at the Hillersleben Proving Grounds. In theory, the Wind Gun, looking like a factory whistle mounted on the end of a long barrel, was designed to shoot down our planes with plugs of air fired at high velocity—a missile that must have appealed on grounds of economy.

In practice tests, however, the success of this gadget was strictly limited. The Wind Gun managed to break one-inch boards at a distance of 200 yards, but it had no effect on aircraft at normal ranges. German scientists interviewed since the war claim that the gun got a try-out in the battle for the Elbe River, but its purpose was somewhat altered. The Germans now assert that they didn't hope to down Allied planes with air pellets, but merely planned to utilize the gun's power to distort a target image. They used it, they say, to prevent pin-point bombing of an important bridge. Actually, no trace of the weapon was found at the Elbe or on any other field of combat.

Over here we have an experimental little number called the "Viper." The designer of this small rocket plane appears to have had in mind a cross between a buzz bomb and an interceptor. It's a mid-wing rocket-propelled monoplane, with a single—and probably uneasy—seat for a pilot whose chances for a safe return are somewhat less than good. The general idea was that the Viper, with the great advantage in speed that rocket propulsion would give over the usual interceptor, would plunge into bomber formations. The pilot would have the option of ramming enemy planes or attacking with rockets. Originally, the Viper was to be considered expendable, with the pilot given a chance to escape by means of an ejecting device. Improvements were added to later experimental models to permit the salvaging of the entire rear half of the fuselage, together with the expensive rocket unit, by means of parachute. So far as we know, the Viper never reached the combat stage.

On this side we have an experimental model of a curved rifle, a device worked out by German science to enable krauts to fire around corners without sticking their necks out. This odd instrument, of which several specimens were found, is in fact an ordinary German rifle to which a special barrel attachment and periscopic sights have been added. The end of the barrel is curved on a radius of approximately nine inches. The sighting arrangement enables the firer to hold the weapon at a 32-degree angle and get a rough idea of what goes on around the corner. The invention is not regarded by Ordnance authorities as a world-beater but might well be useful in brushing off annoying enemy soldiers in the dead area surrounding a tank.

Next we have an item which the Germans call *Die Luftfaust*. This means air-fist, and the chances are that this one-man rocket launcher does indeed pack a significant wallop. The weapon is a nine-tube projector which electrically discharges two successive rocket salvos—four rounds on the first and five on the second. Its chief purpose is to make it hot for low-flying planes. The rockets are of 20 mm. caliber.

IF it's distance you want in a shell and you aren't too fussy about where it lands, the rocket-assisted shell in this corner is your number. It leaves a 28 cm. railway gun in the usual fashion, but 19 seconds after its discharge from the muzzle things begin to happen. A time fuze in the nose of the projectile goes into action, igniting a charge of rocket powder. As a result of this extra acceleration, the shell stretches its range from 38.5 miles to 52.9 miles, a gain of 37 percent. The hitch is that you can't figure that more than half the shells you fire will fall anywhere on a given line 2,430 yards in length. In other words, you can count only on every other shell landing within 1.3 miles of the target.

It takes this whole hall to house the battered remains of *Der Gustav Geschutz*, which is the Germans' pet name for what has been called the biggest gun in the world. According to PWs interviewed by our Ordnance Technical Intelligence officers, only two specimens of this giant were constructed. This one was found on the Eastern Front. Gustav's tube is 95 feet long, and he is capable of firing a 16,540-pound shell a distance of 51,400 yards, or 29 miles. This "scare weapon" was tentatively tried out against the Russians at Sevastopol—but the Russians weren't

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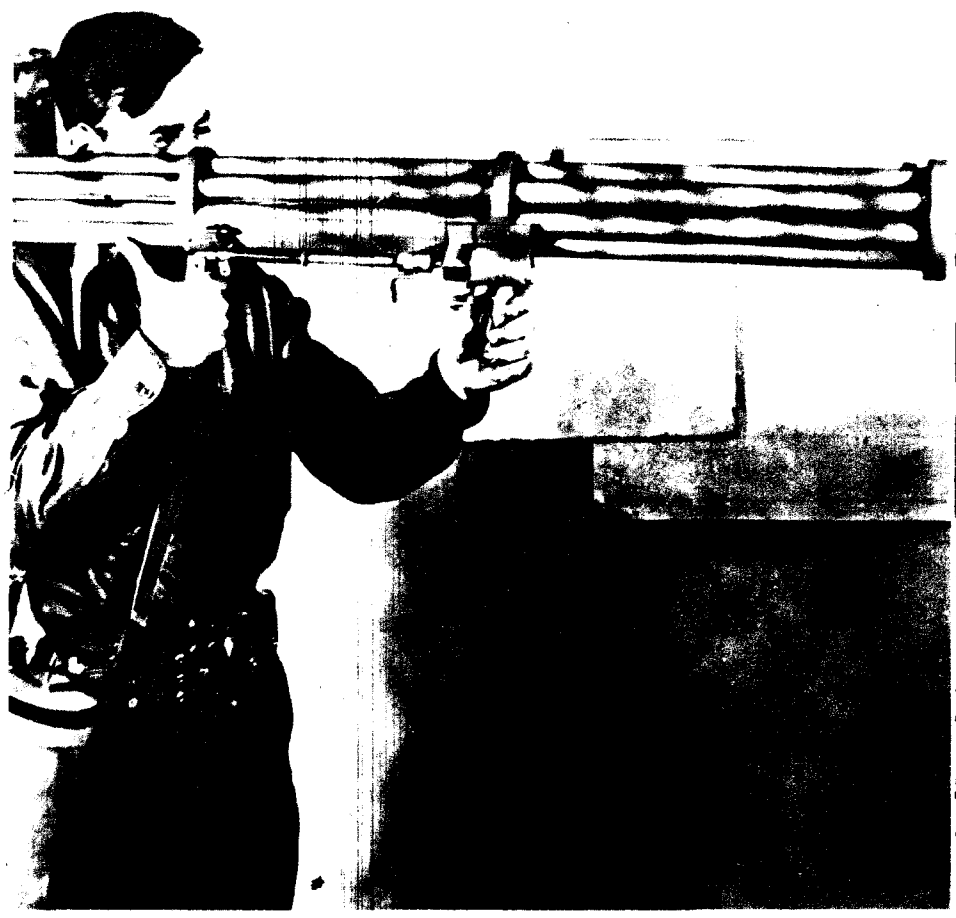
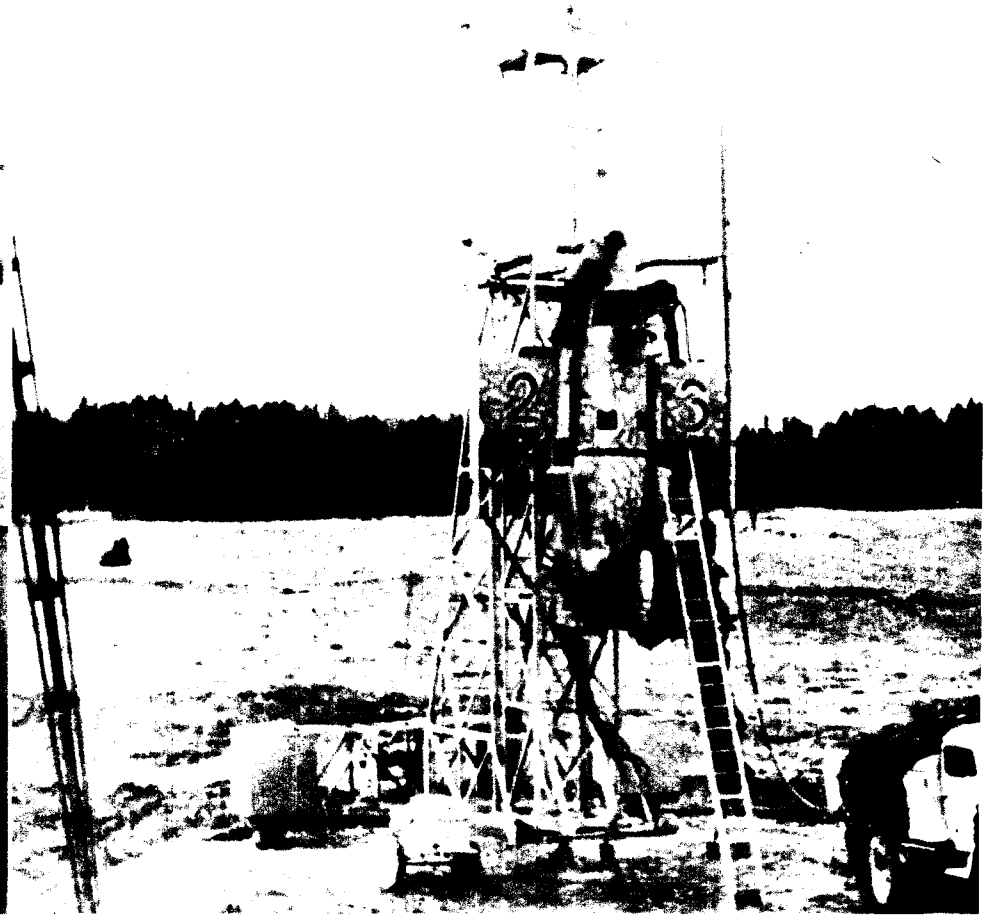
Die Luftfaust, a one-man rocket launcher which was designed for use against low-flying planes. It has a nine-tube projector which fires two rocket salvos.



This is an experimental weapon called the "Viper." Apparently never used in combat, it was built to rocket a small monoplane into enemy bomber formations.



scared. Like the lumbering 200-ton tank known as the *Maus*, Gustav is notable chiefly for his size—another of those propaganda efforts that German scientists now complain they had to produce in order to satisfy the Nazi chiefs that they had the "biggest in the world."

Over here we have the complicated X-4. In two factories at Bielefeld, our men found specimens of this wire-controlled glide bomb. X-4 is a winged rocket missile, designed to be fired from fighter planes bucking a heavy bomber formation. It is guided to the target electrically by means of insulated wires connecting the missile's controls with a control unit in the parent aircraft. After its high explosive charge has been delivered, the wires are cut and the parent craft —in theory—proceeds on its merry way.

OUR arsenal museum is necessarily very incomplete. In addition to exhibits which are being kept under wraps at least for the time being, there are others that cannot be shown for the simple reason that they are either still in the blueprint stage or, if actually produced, still to be located by our investigators.

In this category is the submarine V-2, with which the Germans were experimenting on Toplitz Lake in the Austrian Alps. This was a pet project of a Dr. Heinrich Determann, who, with 14 assistants, was arrested by men of the 18th Infantry when a shoemaker informed the Americans that he had seen "a big metal fish jumping from the water into the air" and "undersea boats that shot out fiery comets." Dr. Determann destroyed his apparatus before our troops arrived, but according to a New York *Times* account, he had made considerable progress. The claim is that, fired from a depth of 300 feet beneath the surface of the lake, his rockets on reaching the air proceeded to travel like V-2s.

Another batch of blueprint weapons was reported by Lt. Col. John A. Keck, chief of the Ordnance Service's Enemy Technical Intelligence Branch in the ETO. In an exhaustive press interview, Col. Keck touched lightly on such gems as a 5,000-pound chainlike projectile composed of a series of rockets, each going off in turn and successively setting off the next in line, and a "practically perfected" rocket-propelled missile designed to explode within 10 yards of a plane, thus greatly increasing the chances of a hit.

For a rare combination-flavor of Jules Verne, *Popular Science* and those Class-B Hollywood productions in which Boris Karloff plays the mad scientist, none of the instruments mentioned so far can touch the plans for the so-called "Sun Gun." This project would perhaps not be worth discussing as a secret weapon if it had not been soberly reported by our Ordnance officers as the work of those same men who produced V-1 and V-2--German scientists "with their practical engineering minds and their distaste for the fantastic."

Briefly, the Sun Gun, which the Germans are reported to have believed might be ready somewhere between 1995 and 2045, was planned as a reflector three kilometers square. That's 1.86 miles. Probably to be made of metallic sodium, this gigantic mirror would be so placed as to focus the heat of the sun on an area marked for destruction by the Nazis of the 21st century. Once exposed to this super-super-weapon, the doomed areas would shrivel instantly, the waters around it, if any, would come to a high boil, and in the twinkling of a sunbeam all life would crumble into ashes.

Where would this world-conquering reflector have to be situated? That's simple—on a "space platform" some 5,100 miles above the surface of the earth. At that distance, some physicists believe, the gravitational pull of the earth, and the centrifugal force of an object—that is, the force with which it is thrust upwards from the earth—would cancel out. The result of this balance is that the "space station," instead of tumbling down to earth or drifting off through space, would circle around the earth like a satellite. With relation to any particular point on the earth's surface it would be stationary, and its crew would no more feel themselves being whirled through space than we groundlings do here below.

One more question remained: How to get out to this point in space and haul along the necessary material for building the platform? The German scientists' answer was—rockets. Talking glibly about their pet project, they were still not clear as to how they would go about achieving this enormous distance (maximum distance of the V-2 is 300 miles) but they appeared to be confident that in 50 years it would be entirely possible to work out the necessary technique.

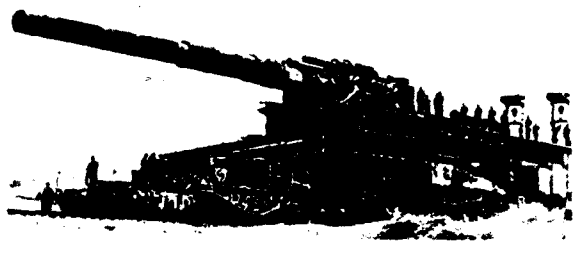
American scientists have been quick to point out serious flaws in the Sun Gun nightmare, and a few have dismissed the notion as completely crackpot. Some deny that gravity is neutralized at 5,000 miles, others emphasize the enormous difficulty in reaching that distance, and still others point out that light to be brought to a sharp focus must be reflected from a sharp-pointed light source, which could not be done by reflecting the huge disc of the sun through a mirror more than a mile square.

DESPITE the Ripley quality of Wind Guns, Sun Guns and semi-circular rifle barrels, American Ordnance men are not inclined to underestimate the achievements of German scientists in the second World War. According to press reports, the Reich's scientists themselves complain that Nazi bigwigs compelled them to waste time and energy dreaming up "scare" weapons of little practical value, but it cannot be forgotten that these scientists developed the V-2, which before the revelation of the atomic bomb was frankly described by one U. S. Ordnance officer as "the greatest technical feat of the war."

V-2 itself is far from being a secret weapon at this late date, but efforts to improve its performance constituted one of the chief preoccupations of German science. Primarily, the problems were to increase the range of this rocket bomb and at the same time increase its deadliness. The first of these objectives involves the development of a new fuel—one that would provide greater energy at a lower weight. Given such a fuel, the second problem might more easily be solved. The more efficient the fuel, the more space and weight that can be spent on the business-end of the missile.

The Germans, exploring new forms of energy, particularly atomic, were extremely hopeful about the future of rockets. Some of those interviewed since VE-Day talked about post-war prospects and predicted transatlantic mail-carrying rockets within the next few years. They also predicted that 15 to 20 years from now there would be rockets to carry passengers across the Atlantic in 40 minutes.

It is generally believed that warfare of the future, if any, will see a tremendous and deadly development of three principles first applied in this conflict: jet propulsion, atomic energy, and missiles guided by remote control. The Germans made considerable headway in all three, but, as all the world now knows, our own Ordnance kept well ahead of the game. The Sun Gun of Dr. Goebbels' dream was no match for the "secret weapon" that fell on Hiroshima.



Der Gustav Geschutz, 95-foot German propaganda gun.

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"NOW WILL YOU STOP COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW THE ARMY CLASSIFIED YOU?"
Sgt Charles Pearson

HEY THERE'S ONE OF THOSE COMBAT JACKETS—AND THEM BOOTS LIKE WE SAW PICTURES OF
Sgt Ozzie St. George

"OUR MORE SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT WHEN THE MOON IS FULL HE RETURNS TO THIS VERY SPOT."
Sgt Joseph Kramer

"IT SAYS 'I AM AN AMERICAN WITH 94 POINTS AND IF LOST IN ENEMY TERRITORY PLEASE GET ME HOME'"
—S Sgt. Douglas Borgstedt

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